

PROBLEMS OF THE AGING

HEARINGS
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
FEDERAL AND STATE ACTIVITIES
OF THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
UNITED STATES SENATE
EIGHTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

Part 4.—Las Vegas, Nev.

OCTOBER 25, 1961

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NOTE.—Thirteen hearings on Federal and State activities in the field of aging were held and they are identified as follows:

Part 1.—Washington, D.C.
Part 2.—Trenton, N.J.
Part 3.—Los Angeles, Calif.
Part 4.—Las Vegas, Nev.
Part 5.—Eugene, Oreg.
Part 6.—Pocatello, Idaho
Part 7.—Boise, Idaho

Part 8.—Spokane, Wash.
Part 9.—Honolulu, Hawaii
Part 10.—Lihue, Hawaii
Part 11.—Wailuku, Hawaii
Part 12.—Hilo, Hawaii
Part 13.—Kansas City, Mo.

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PROBLEMS OF THE AGING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1961

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL-STATE ACTIVITIES
OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING,
Las Vegas, Nev.

The subcommittee met at 10 a.m., pursuant to notice, in room 15, Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nev., Senator Alan Bible, chairman, presiding.

Present: Senators Bible of Nevada and Randolph of West Virginia.

Also present: Congressman Walter S. Baring of Nevada.

Committee staff members present: William G. Reidy, staff director; Dorothy McCamman, professional staff member; John Guy Miller, minority staff member.

Senator BIBLE. Ladies and gentlemen, the hearing will come to order.

This is, as you know, the hearing of the U.S. Special Senate Committee on Aging; and I am delighted to have here today Senator Jennings Randolph of the great State of West Virginia, who is very active in this field, and I am going to recognize and call on him in just a few moments.

This is one of a number of field hearings that the committee, under the chairmanship of Senator McNamara of Michigan, is holding around the country to probe in some depth into the problems of older people. In our session this morning we shall focus on Federal-State activities and program relationships. We shall hear from Nevada State officials and other expert witnesses in the field of aging. At 2 o'clock this afternoon our senior citizens will have an opportunity to be heard, to bring us their own expert testimony about the problems that trouble them and their suggestions for working toward solutions.

Between 1950 and 1960 Nevada's population aged 65 and over increased by nearly two-thirds, almost twice as fast as the increase nationally. Only two States exceeded our rate of growth, our sister State of Arizona and the State of Florida. And I think this is an additional indication, Senator Randolph, of the great attractions that this area and this State which now we are honored to have you visit, hold for the people of this Nation.

This rapid increase in the number of older people cannot help but have an important impact on the economy of our State. It vitally affects the demands placed on our State and local programs and on their relationships to Federal programs. I am glad, therefore, to

have this opportunity to explore the ways in which Nevada is facing up to these needs and to assess our problems.

We are often told that we should think in terms of the challenges of aging rather than the problems of aging. This is not always easy to do. We in Nevada, however, have certain advantages in transferring our emphasis from problems to challenges. We have a relatively young population. While our aged population is growing at a faster rate than the average rate, our total population, including younger workers, is growing even faster. For all ages our rate of growth over the last decade was nearly five times that of the national average, and was exceeded by only one other State in the Union, and I guess that was the State of Florida. I believe the State of Arizona followed us in these growths in the overall ages.

Of our people over 65 years of age, more are in the ages of between 65 and 69 and fewer in the extremely advanced ages. Most of our older people live in urban areas—that is true in the country generally—making it easier to get services to them.

We have a higher proportion of men among our people 65 and over than any other State in the Union except Alaska. In the country as a whole there are only 83 men for every 100 women who have passed their 65th birthday.

Here in Nevada we have more aged men than women, in the ratio of 117 to 100, a ratio applauded by the population experts because of the economic implications, and not, I can assure you, because of any prejudice against the female sex. And that can be left on the record.

There are the plus values as we assess the situation in Nevada. There are, I am sure, some minus values too. For example, a somewhat smaller proportion of our population over 65 receives social security benefits, 58 percent at the beginning of 1961 in comparison to 64 percent nationally, and 70 percent or more in most industrialized States.

All of these factors should be taken into account as we hear from our older citizens today and from the people who administer the programs of significance to older people. These facts, while they help to illuminate the Nevada picture, are woefully insufficient. We have therefore turned to you, the citizens of Nevada, for the insight we need for the studies of our Senate Committee on Aging.

As I previously mentioned, we have with us today Senator Jennings Randolph of West Virginia. Senator Randolph, along with the then Senator John F. Kennedy and Senator Pat McNamara of Michigan, was a member of the original Subcommittee on Problems of the Aged and Aging from which our Special Committee on Aging developed. Senator Randolph has a profound knowledge of the subject and a deep and compassionate interest in the problems of all of our people. And it is interesting to observe that in the last session, when Senator John F. Kennedy was a Senator and before he had received a deserved promotion, the three of us sat in the back row. The closest to the aisle was Mike Monroney, and then next was Senator John F. Kennedy, and then next was Senator Pat McNamara, and then I sat on the next seat in the back row in the Senate, up until January of this year. This year we were promoted down to the row in which

Senator Jennings Randolph is seated; and he sits here [indicating], and then Senator McNamara is seated next, and then next to Senator Pat McNamara happens to be my seat, next to my seat is Stuart Symington, next to Stu Symington is Paul Douglas. So we received a promotion as well as the President of the United States, and we are down in Randolph's territory; and I am delighted he is with us today.

We also have with us, so that you people may be a little better acquainted with our staff people, Bill Reidy, a man who has spent a number of years on the Washington scene. He is our staff director and the health specialist. We also have Miss Dorothy McCamman, our Senate expert on social security. It is now with a great deal of pleasure that I present to a Nevada audience my very close and distinguished friend, and almost seatmate, Senator Jennings Randolph, of West Virginia. Senator Randolph.

STATEMENT OF HON. JENNINGS RANDOLPH, A SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

Senator RANDOLPH. This is a very gracious and most generous comment on my presence. I am sincerely grateful that the work of this special committee has given me the opportunity to share with my dedicated colleague, Alan Bible, the responsibility of counseling with you in this State. Here are gathered the Nevada leaders who cooperate in solving the challenges, rather than just the problems, which exist in this growing area. We shall be informed and strengthened by those persons from the audience who will speak in their own individual right. They will express their opinions as well as the officials within the States. All who are present are interested in sensible policies for the aged and concerned for the progress being made.

I have been in Nevada for only a few hours on this trip. It was perhaps 17 or 18 years ago, Senator Bible, that I had the good fortune, not financial—I use the words advisedly—to be in this area for the first time. The basic magnesium plant had just begun its operation. On that visit another committee, not the one in the House of which I was a member, was here for the purpose of seeing specifically what was being done in that defense production effort. The chairman of the committee was the then Senator Harry Truman, later to become the President of the United States.

I do not want to become—nostalgic. This record will not reflect perhaps the way I am talking informally. We may, as we do in the Senate, sometimes revise our remarks before they are printed. Not that the central theme would be changed, but perhaps some of these comments would not be pertinent.

On this current visit I see the evidences of pleasure among the population, especially the population which is mobile, which comes and goes at Las Vegas. I can well appreciate the frontier spirit. We must give particular attention to the facts of the aged and weigh values which are inherent in this State among its stable population—an expanding population of which my able colleague has spoken.

The predecessor of this special committee, which was then a Subcommittee on the Problems of the Aged and Aging of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, held hearings throughout the country. I recall, Senator Bible, the difference then and now. We

visited and listened to testimony from people in seven cities. This year I believe that we have scheduled hearings in 32 cities. Possibly additional ones will be added.

Two years ago, we embraced the opportunity to explore the diversity of programs, the multitudinous effort and the activities which were being developed for the older people of the country. These programs varied as we went from one section of the country to another. It was the beginning.

Now, senior citizens are provided in Nevada with a different type of climate—not one of physical proportions. There is here a different climate, different atmosphere, and an environment different from that which we find in most of our States. I have been listening to what our chairman has said this morning, and I have been somewhat amazed by the contrast which he has spoken of today between the urban population in Nevada—a contrast, I say, which is different in degree with my own State of West Virginia. It has been noted that more of the older citizens live in the urban areas within Nevada than is the percentage nationally. In West Virginia 6 of every 10 of our citizens 65 years or older reside in rural areas. That is almost, I am told, double the proportion in the State of Nevada.

The Senate of the United States has a real responsibility in this rather new field. The problem has been inherent for many, many years, but our population, growing as it does, mushrooming in other areas of the country as it does, finds that growth or that mushrooming at a greater degree percentagewise for older people. We do have a responsibility therefore, in the Senate as well as the Congress generally, to be as knowledgeable on this subject as possible; and if we are to be knowledgeable—this is no disparagement of what we do in Washington—we must be in the field. We must listen to what people like those who are here today tell us from their own personal experiences, and from the officials who will tell us of the efforts being made on various programs and activities in this State. And so if we are to present a broad national picture, it must be formed of many parts; and these parts, of course, fit themselves together oftentimes because of the various environments, and conditions of peoples and different sections of the country.

I am gratified this morning to be associated here with my chairman. He sits in the Senate one seat removed from me, on my right; and oftentimes the chairman of our committee (Mr. McNamara) is busy at other chores away from the Senate floor, so I really work side by side with Senator Bible. I would say to you in Nevada that there is no more diligent and dedicated Member of the U.S. Senate, not only to this particular problem but to the scope of the many problems now facing the Senate, than Senator Bible of this State. I am also cognizant of the fine services of your other Senator, my friend, Howard Cannon. Your active Member of the House, Representative Baring, is also aiding this State. We shall discuss responsibilities and opportunities in this field, not only at the Federal but also the State level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Senator, particularly for your very kind and overgenerous remarks, which I would be less than honest if I didn't say I appreciate, and I am very, very happy to have you here.

The Senator has had a distinguished career in public service. He served for some 14 years in the House of Representatives before he was promoted, or advanced, as the case might be, to the Senate of the United States, and he certainly is not only one of my closest personal friends but he is one of the hardest working men I have ever seen. I can relate a number of stories about Randolph's projects, and when he has a project, believe me, he never lets go of it until it is accomplished. And he has had many, many accomplishments in this area.

I believe that you served in the House of Representatives with the other distinguished Member of our head table group here today, Congressman Walter Baring, our own Representative from the State of Nevada. Congressman Walter Baring has long had an interest in this field. Walt, I don't know whether you care to say anything or not. I certainly want to recognize you, and the microphone is yours for whatever you want to say.

Congress BARING. Senator Bible, I don't think I need a microphone for what I am going to say here this morning.

I want to welcome Senator Randolph too, and I apologize for interrupting him. I didn't know that the meeting had started, and I was called out a few minutes ago on another mission, so I am sorry that I interrupted you, Senator. We surely welcome you to the State.

As Senator Bible told you, I am most concerned with this issue. We both had occasion to be together at breakfast this morning, and he (Senator Bible) graciously invited me to sit in on this hearing. It is not a House hearing, but the House of Representatives is very interested also. So with that I am going to give the microphone back to the Senator.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you, Congressman Baring.

I think you people understand that this morning we are hearing the official representatives of the State administration, those who will present either State or, in some instances, Federal viewpoints later on this morning. And then this afternoon we are going to hear from the senior citizens themselves. These are the people who are really the experts in this field.

Our first witness this morning is a lifelong friend of mine. He is the executive director of the Nevada Employment Security Department. Prior to his appointment by our present Governor, Grant Sawyer, in January of 1959, he was engaged in business in Boulder City, Nev.

He has served as a member of the Governor's Committee on Aging. He has recently completed a term as vice president of the Interstate Conference of Employment Security Agencies. He served on Governor Sawyer's State Institutions Committee. He is presently president of the Nevada Society for Crippled Children.

He is a native of Arkansas and moved to Nevada in 1932. He received his education at Las Vegas public schools, the University of California, and George Washington University.

It is with a great deal of pride and personal pleasure that I introduce now to you, Senator Randolph, the executive director of the Nevada Employment Security Department, who is representing Gov. Grant Sawyer and will make the opening presentation on behalf of the Governor at this particular time: Dick Ham.

**STATEMENT OF RICHARD HAM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEVADA
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT, REPRESENTING GOV.
GRANT SAWYER**

Mr. HAM. Mr. Chairman, my name is Richard Ham, and I am the executive director of the Employment Security Department for the State of Nevada. I am here today representing Governor Sawyer.

The problems confronting our senior citizens have always been of special interest to the Governor and he was most anxious to be here this morning. His schedule, unfortunately, could not be adjusted. He is presently attending a Governor's conference on State planning and urban-regional development in New York.

Were he here today, I am sure the Governor would begin by noting the great strides taken toward recognizing and solving the major problems in this particular field. Much remains to be done, but the groundwork has been laid for many important programs.

Senator McNamara, Senator Randolph, and Senator Bible, along with the members of their committee, deserve much credit for their efforts in behalf of these programs. They have pioneered legislation in health, housing, retirement, and employment, and have worked untiringly to advance the cause and meet our responsibility to an ever-increasing segment of our population.

We in Nevada are proud to be counted among the more progressive States in dealing with the problems of our older citizens. Our approach to these problems has been greatly facilitated through the cooperation and assistance of Senator Bible who has consistently supported increase in Federal participation in old-age assistance; who was from the beginning a strong advocate for a White House Conference on Aging; and who, by his legislative record, has shown a genuine concern. He is in great part responsible for the prestige Nevada enjoys in this field.

Nevada for some time has approached the problems of the aging on a grassroots level. The terminology is not mine. It is that of Governor Sawyer, who began a study of the issues soon after taking office in 1959.

The result was the formation of local committees in virtually every community to study local problems. Their findings were relayed to the State committee, and a number of regional conferences were conducted to hear recommendations.

These small groups, in which hundreds of volunteer workers labored long hours, work hand in hand with the Governor's Committee on Aging.

Findings and recommendations of the committee were presented to the Governor in September of 1960. The report explored in detail the many problems of Nevada's aging.

There were 10 major fields covered in the report. These categories included economics and employment, health care and rehabilitation, social services and family life, housing, education, professional personnel, free-time activities, religion, research in gerontology, and organization.

The man who deserves a great deal of credit for this comprehensive document is Dr. Francis Kernan, chairman of the Governor's Committee on Aging. Dr. Kernan will testify later this morning.

The detailed findings and recommendations in the report enabled Governor Sawyer to gain a good picture of the situation in Nevada and insured our successful participation in this year's White House Conference on Aging.

The data placed in the hands of the Governor were, in many cases, depressing, and it was apparent Nevada faced a long and difficult task before satisfactory progress could be achieved. But, for the first time, we knew our exact position. Our weaknesses were pinpointed.

Since receiving the report a year ago, Governor Sawyer has devoted long hours to the study of specific problems. He has been encouraged by recent Federal legislation in the field of health care. He is hopeful that more and more can be accomplished to alleviate the financial burdens of our older citizens.

Money alone is not the answer. The public must be educated to the capabilities of this age group. The Governor feels that such an educational program is of paramount importance. The older person cannot maintain his dignity and self-respect under circumstances that prevent him from enjoying a normal standard of living, or from contributing his skills and ideas to his society.

On this Governor Sawyer has said—and I quote :

The well-being of the older members of our population is a matter of critical importance to every citizen of Nevada. The conservation of their health, their happiness, and their creative usefulness is essential to the well-being of our country, for this age group represents not only a major part of the population but a tremendous untapped reservoir in the way of human resources.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Dick Ham; and we will be hearing from you again in your capacity as executive director of the Nevada Employment Security Department.

At this time I am going to invite the other representatives of the State to join you at this particular table as a panel.

First, George Jolly, the labor commissioner of the State of Nevada; Mr. Bill Schultz, who is today speaking on behalf of the department of education; next, Dr. Kernan, who is the chairman of the Governor's Committee on Aging; Dr. Hurley, the director of the State health department; Mr. Charles Cheatham, the Las Vegas district director of the Nevada State Welfare Department.

We are delighted to have you here, gentlemen; and our first witness, in the order that has been suggested to me, from this panel, is Mr. George Jolly, the State labor commissioner.

George, we are delighted to hear from you at this time.

TESTIMONY OF GEORGE S. JOLLY, COMMISSIONER OF LABOR, STATE OF NEVADA

Mr. JOLLY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator Randolph, Senator Bible, and other distinguished guests sitting at the tables, Congressman Baring, I offer a small apology this morning. I was called upon at such short notice for this presentation that I didn't really know exactly what was expected here, but I did get together a few reports here which I thought may be beneficial to the hearing.

I am very glad to have the opportunity to appear at this hearing and to make one of the presentations for the State of Nevada on the problems which are confronting our older people today. I think we all agree that our aging population presents one of the most serious social problems in our State and Nation today, and that the only way to find solutions to these problems is through hearings such as this one conducted at the State level.

In May 1959, a few months after the Subcommittee on Problems of the Aged and Aging had been created by the U.S. Senate, Senator Pat McNamara, chairman of this committee, sent a questionnaire to all of the State directors of the department of labor, asking that we comment on the questions and give whatever independent observations we cared to offer.

I would like to review with you those questions and the comments submitted by me to Senator McNamara. By doing so, I think it will help to bring into focus the major problems which confront our older people, not only in the Nation, but in Nevada also; the action which has been taken since May 1959 to solve some of these problems; and the problems yet to be solved.

In the first question, we were asked to list the major problems of the aging in our communities, and to state what priorities, if any, could be established in determining what the Federal Government should do to meet these problems.

In my reply, I listed the following major problems of the aged in Nevada: lack of an adequate income to maintain a decent standard of living, lack of adequate housing, medical service, job opportunities, recreational facilities, counseling and case work services, and institutional care for those who need it.

In determining what should be done by the Federal Government to meet these problems, I suggested that congressional action should be taken in some of these fields, and that State and local interest should be stimulated to solve some of the problems with which we are faced.

In the second question, we were asked to state if we believed existing agencies, both private and public, were providing adequate solutions to these problems.

In my reply, I stated that I did not believe that Federal, State, local, or private agencies were providing solutions to these problems, and that there should be a definite program established in every community, with each and every agency working together toward a solution to these problems. The Federal Government should take the leadership in establishing a program, and the work of all the agencies should be correlated.

The third question asked us to state specifically if the role of the Federal Government was adequate as then practiced or if there was a need for additional action, and if so, to state what this should be.

In my reply to this question, I stated that in my opinion the role of the Federal Government was not adequate, and that there is a need for additional action. I suggested that it would be beneficial if the following programs could be established:

- (1) A research program to increase our knowledge about the many aspects of aging.

- (2) A bureau in one of the Federal departments which would be concerned solely with administering service to the aged and aging.

(3) A grant-in-aid service to the States administered by the bureau mentioned above.

(4) A program to train and motivate professional personnel for working with the aged.

(5) A financial assistance program for the construction of housing and institutional care facilities.

Question 4 asked us to spell out new ideas in the field which could, if effected, yield beneficial results to the aged.

In my reply, I suggested the following:

(1) Passage of uniform legislation in all the States covering old-age assistance benefits so that the recipients will receive a like amount in all States, will be able to move from one State to another and retain their benefits through reciprocal agreements between the States, will be able to own a small amount of property and be able to work and earn some wages each month to supplement their assistance benefits in order to maintain a standard of living that is not sub-normal; and an increase in the amount of old-age assistance benefits.

(2) An increase in the FICA benefits, and an increase in the amount that can be earned by a person receiving FICA benefits, so that he can more adequately supplement his income in order to maintain a decent standard of living after retirement.

(3) Establishment of a health insurance program to cover the retired worker.

The fifth question asked what we thought should be the role of management, labor, health, and educational groups in dealing with the problems of the aged.

In my reply I stated that I believed that management, labor, health, and educational groups should work together to establish a truly effective program, at the national, State, and local levels, for aging citizens.

Now let us look at what has been accomplished in this field since May 1959. After the hearings conducted by Senator McNamara's Subcommittee on Aging were concluded, the following legislation was introduced in Congress:

(1) The Retired Persons Medical Insurance Act which would help the aged finance the cost of medical care.

(2) The Health Maintenance of the Aging Act which makes it possible for the aged to benefit from modern research findings on the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases.

(3) The Equality of Employment Opportunity for Older Workers Act, a measure to combat the practice of age discrimination in employment.

(4) The Senior Citizens Service Training Program Act which is designed to create opportunities for retired persons to engage in meaningful part-time employment.

(5) The Constant Purchasing Power Bond Act which would give future retirees an opportunity to safeguard the purchasing power value of their savings.

(6) An act providing for the establishment of a U.S. Office of Aging concerned with the full range of problems of our elderly citizens and serving as their spokesman.

Senator BIBLE. If I may interrupt you right there, George, I think Congress has made some definite progress in the right direction. We

have at this past session a record of which we are very proud. This is legislation which has actually been enacted into law. We have made two important changes in the Social Security Act.

No. 1, we have lowered the age of men to 62 so that they can qualify at that age at a reduced rate, and we have also increased the amount of the payments to widows. We have appropriated several millions of dollars more for housing the elderly, and, if I recall the figure correctly—and Bill Reidy will tell me if this is the correct figure—we provided \$30 million for community health facilities, and these especially include facilities for the elderly. So we are making progress in this direction.

Senator RANDOLPH. Senator Bible, I'm sure that Mr. Reidy would call to your attention also—you participated in that favorable result—the raising of the amount of money which a person can actually earn and still receive the old-age benefits. That was accomplished in the 86th Congress and again in the 87th Congress, and I think that development might be included for comment here as some needed progress.

Mr. JOLLY. I think, Senators, the subject that you are talking about now will be brought out in other presentations. My statement here is that even though most of this legislation has not yet been enacted, at least an effort has been made to accomplish something concrete in the way of programs that will benefit our older citizens. We were only limited to 10 minutes' time here, so it's impossible to get—

Senator BIBLE. I will take the responsibility for the additional time. I just wanted to nail down a few of these additional things, George, which you were saying, because this seemed to be a very good place to do it. This is informal, we are just attempting to develop a record here which is all embracing, and I thought it was a proper place to make mention of some of the things which have been done in this Congress which has just adjourned. And I very much appreciate what you are saying. You may continue.

Mr. JOLLY. In addition to this proposed legislation, definite action has been taken in the establishment of the Special Committee on Aging in the U.S. Senate; the Housing Act of 1959, which authorizes direct Federal loans at low rates of interest to nonprofit groups to build low-rent housing for the elderly at rentals they can afford; an increase in FICA benefits; and the establishment of research programs to study the aspects of aging.

In the Findings and Recommendations of Governor Sawyer's Committee on Aging, the problems of Nevada's older citizens were outlined and suggestions made for solutions to these problems. As expected, our findings in regard to the problems of the aged and aging in Nevada are similar to those throughout the Nation, and I believe that the necessary steps should be taken to carry out the programs which were recommended by this committee. We cannot permit our efforts in dealing with these problems to drift if the older citizens of Nevada are to have the opportunity for living a meaningful life.

In conclusion, I would like to say that there have been some accomplishments in solving these problems since May 1955, but much remains yet to be accomplished, and we must all work together to do it.

Now, while I have this opportunity I think I will take it to commend the subcommittee, Senator Bible, Governor Sawyer, Governor Sawyer's committee, especially Dr. Kernan, who so ably worked so

many hours on preparing the report from this State, and each and every one and all of the people that helped get this material together. Thank you, gentlemen.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, George, for a very fine and comprehensive statement. I think it is a job well done.

Our next witness will be Mr. William Schultz, who will speak to us on behalf of the department of education.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM E. SCHULTZ, EMPLOYMENT SERVICE DIRECTOR, STATE OF NEVADA

Mr. SCHULTZ. The statement I am about to make is on behalf of the vocational rehabilitation program and thoughts concerning independent living as they are related to the State of Nevada. My present position is that of director of the employment services for the State of Nevada, but my position immediately prior to this was as director of vocational rehabilitation under the State Department of Education for the State of Nevada.

And, Senator Randolph, I would like to point out at this time that my counterpart in your State is a very dynamic leader, Ray Power, who has been most active, as you probably know, in all phases of the aging, as well as in all phases of rehabilitation, and without doubt he is one of the finest VR directors in the United States at the present time.

Senator RANDOLPH. Yes, I would not want the record to stand complete, since Mr. Schultz has mentioned F. Ray Power, if I did not also applaud this West Virginian. He has long been a leader in vocational rehabilitation and has given much time in our State to workable solutions to these problems, just as has Mr. Schultz in this State.

Mr. SCHULTZ. We would like to point out that when we indicate a few statistics here, they may not compare with the statistics that Ray has been successful in getting in the State of West Virginia, with a much larger population, of course.

During the last 4 years the program of rehabilitation in the State of Nevada has almost doubled, and we have also been able to increase the funds provided to the program in the State; but when you increase \$1 100 percent you only have \$2, and so there is still a problem of funds as far as rehabilitation is concerned.

The increases in services that were provided were aimed at the aged as well as the rest, as we will point out here in just a minute. The number of people during the last 2 years, the last 2 fiscal years, that were rehabilitated in the State of Nevada was approximately the same, due to the fact that the case service money available to the programs was approximately the same over the past 2 years. The cost, however, was much greater in the rehabilitation process.

During 1959-60, 52 people out of 116 who were rehabilitated were over the age of 45. There were 38 males and 14 females. In 1960-61, 39 individuals over the age of 45 were rehabilitated, of which there were 30 males and 9 females, making a total of 91 out of 232 over the age of 45 who were rehabilitated. These 91 people were rehabilitated into 35 different types of occupations, including such occupations as that of salesclerks, television repairmen, deputy sheriffs, nurses, taxi dispatchers, seamstresses, dealers, plumbers, painters, and many others. So any individual over the age of 45 who feels that there

isn't an opportunity for him in the field, I think that we can point out that there are all kinds of opportunities if the proper connections are made. And I think that was one of the main duties of the Committee on Aging, is to see that these people over 45 and over 65 were recognized for the abilities that they have, and we certainly don't want to see this vast reservoir of manpower go to waste.

Senator BIBLE. This also points up the problem in the field of rehabilitation. You are strengthening the overall economic segments of not only the State but the Nation, because you are creating taxpayers rather than those people who are tax dependents?

Mr. SCHULTZ. Absolutely, Senator. And I could spend hours talking on that particular phase of it, how we are putting people back on the payroll rather than letting them draw funds from pensions and welfare sources, or whatever the case may be.

Senator BIBLE. This is one of the real fine programs.

Mr. SCHULTZ. And the figures that have just recently been released point out that with over 91,000 people rehabilitated in the United States in the past year the cost of these rehabilitations was returned over 10 times in the savings of welfare funds, in the payment of income taxes of these people that had previously not paid income taxes, and so this is one of the programs that very definitely pays for itself.

At the present time in the State of Nevada there is a need for an evaluation center and sheltered workshop so that rehabilitation clients of all ages can be properly evaluated, and in some cases be provided with the facilities that are offered by sheltered workshops. At the present time, the State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency is cooperating with the Nevada Society for Crippled Children in the promotion and development of an evaluation center and sheltered workshop. The big difficulty in any undertaking of this type is lack of funds—and we mention that so often that I almost hate to mention it any more, and yet it is definitely a problem.

We would like to point out at this time that the cooperation that we have had from Congress has been terrific in the field of rehabilitation. A number of States have not been able to match the funds that have been provided by Congress. Nevada as a whole has been fortunate enough to match the funds appropriated by Congress in the VR field, limited though these funds may be. Due to the fact that legislative appropriation was below the figure requested and required to meet the State's share as matching, the general agency could not match the funds available to them. Sometimes it is not understood that Federal funds can only be received by matching them with State funds. Since Nevada has a separate agency for the blind, this agency, through the numerous funds available to the welfare department, has been able to match those funds which the general agency could not match. It appears that one of the salvations for the State of Nevada would be a better matching formula at Federal level. With our small population and high per capita income, we naturally have one of the least favorable matching ratios of any of the States. Senator Randolph, in your particular State the matching funds are 70 cents Federal to 30 cents State. They have a much more favorable matching ratio in Senator Randolph's State.

We mentioned at the beginning that we would like to speak briefly on the independent living bill, which will be of vital interest to people over 45. This was introduced in the House, as Congressman Walter

Baring well knows, in House bill 3525 by Mr. Fogarty on January 30, 1961. This was the overall rehabilitation bill. Part of the rehabilitation bill included the independent living bill, and the independent living bill is aimed primarily toward those individuals that are not capable of getting back into the labor market, and the purpose of the bill is to help these people take care of themselves independently, if nothing more than around the home, thereby releasing someone else that may be taking care of them to get back into the labor market. This bill was introduced in the previous session. It was also introduced in this session. It is backed very strongly by the National Rehabilitation Association, and it undoubtedly will be introduced next year, and eventually we hope that it will pass. Nevada is very interested in seeing some action taken toward independent living.

We also feel that such a bill passed by Congress covering independent living operations in the State should come under the jurisdiction of the VR division. There have been discussions pro and con on this; however, the bill was written so that it would come under the jurisdiction of VR. We firmly believe that this is the only agency in the State that is entirely capable of providing the services as called for by the bill that was introduced in Congress last year and will probably be introduced again. It is understood, of course, that it will be necessary for the State legislature to appropriate funds to match those put up by Congress under the Independent Living Act.

Again I would like to emphasize at this point that most of the services provided under this bill are aimed toward the aged. If these State funds were appropriated, of course, to match the Federal funds, it would have to come under the approval of the Nevada State Board for Vocational Education. It is our own feeling if this bill were to pass it could be accepted by the State of Nevada.

We would like to point out that, as Senator Bible has so well indicated at the beginning of the program here, over 18,000 people in Nevada are over the age of 65. And those individuals over the age of 45, of course, are a much larger category, and I am sure that one of our other members of the panel will indicate that figure. But since we have this large number it is a definite challenge to those of us in the State of Nevada, as well as the people at the Federal level, to do something for these people; and at this point, Senator Bible, we feel that it is necessary for Congress to provide the leadership in this particular area; and they have made great strides in this area, and it is through the strong leadership that has been provided at the level in Washington, I think, that it has encouraged those of us at the State level to work harder along the lines of the field of the aged. It is only through the leadership at the very top, the Senate and the House, and, of course, under the leadership of President Kennedy, that this will filter down to the States and we will be able to do more for the people in the State—not only the State agencies, but also the political subdivisions, our municipalities, and on down the line.

I think that covers most everything, and I want to thank you, Senator Bible, for the opportunity of appearing here.

I want to thank Mr. Ham for giving me the opportunity to appear here on behalf of the department of education that I previously represented before I had the good fortune of joining Mr. Ham's staff.

So thank you again, Senator, for this opportunity.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you, Bill. This is a very fine statement, on which I would only make one comment. You commented on the independent living bill. I think this is a very important piece of legislation. It does not have to be reintroduced when we go back into the congressional session on January 10, 1962, because it will be a continuation of this past session. The session was started in January of this year, and this would be the 2d session of the 87th Congress.

I think it is worthy of note that the bill to which you refer is sponsored by Senator Lister Hill, and I know of no other man in this entire area of health and problems of the aging and the aged who has a more vital interest than Senator Lister Hill. He is chairman of the full committee. As you well know, he is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Appropriations charged with the jurisdiction of the health, education, and welfare bill. He not only has an intense interest but he commands tremendous respect in the Senate of the United States. So I think there is a fine opportunity and a fine chance of this particular piece of legislation actually moving. I think it is good legislation, and I think it is something that would be helpful because, as I understand it, it does in effect take the institutionalized people out of the institutions in certain areas and certain cases and allows them to go home and become independent people. I think this is as it should be.

Our next witness on the panel is Dr. Daniel Hurley, the director of the State health department.

By way of introduction, Dr. Hurley is a westerner, born in Idaho. He finished his basic science at Creighton University; he finished his internship in Sister of Charity Hospital of Buffalo, N.Y. He earned his M.D. at Creighton, and later took an advanced degree at Harvard University, in 1949.

He was county physician and health officer of Eureka, Nev., between the years 1928 and 1948. He had an active tour of duty as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve in 1943 and 1944.

He was certified as a specialist of the American Board of Preventive Medicine and Public Health in 1956. He is a member of the Washoe County Medical Association; past president of the Nevada State Medical Society; he is a fellow of the American Public Health Association, and past president of the Nevada Public Health Association.

He has been a lifelong friend of mine. We had many common problems during the time I served as attorney general of the State.

So, Dr. Hurley, it is a real pleasure for me to welcome you to this panel, and your background is such that your testimony will be very valuable to this committee as we analyze these problems and try to make progress in them. Dr. Hurley.

STATEMENT OF DR. DANIEL J. HURLEY, DIRECTOR, STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, STATE OF NEVADA

Dr. HURLEY. Until just recently, the main emphasis of the Nevada State Health Department has been in the field of environmental health and sanitation and the control of communicable disease. This was true in most small States. While these activities are still very important and cannot be neglected, the public health interest has spread to other fields, especially the field of maternal and child

health and also in programs for handicapped children whether the condition be one of crippling or of mental retardation. There has also been a greatly increased interest in the field of community mental health. The community health problems of most chronic disease and of our aging population have been mostly overlooked, except in the specific fields such as cancer detection and control. In Nevada, the State health department has cooperated with groups of doctors in demonstration projects for diabetes detection and with the ophthalmologists in the State for demonstrations of glaucoma detection. Two years ago a team composed of members of the staff of the State health department conducted a survey of the nursing homes in the northern part of the State. This survey showed that more nursing home beds are needed in the State and the quality of care in most of the existing homes could be upgraded. Many of these nursing homes lack the essential services of physical therapy, occupational therapy, and the services of a nutritionist.

A comprehensive community program covering all forms of chronic illness and disability due to aging is in its infancy in Nevada at the present time. However, I would like to tell you about two specific projects which have been established during the last few months. The first is a visiting home nursing service in Washoe County. On January 1, 1961, this home nursing service was integrated with the public health nursing services of the Reno Washoe County Health Department. This program is unique in many ways and has gained national attention because of this. This program, while it is part of the general public health nursing of the county health department and directed by the director of nursing, is sponsored by the Washoe County Medical Society. Financial contributions necessary to start this program were obtained from several voluntary health agencies such as the Tuberculosis and Health Association and the Reno Cancer Center; the program also received support from the Washoe County Welfare Department and a small demonstration cancer grant from the State health department.

The second specific program I would like to describe started after July 1 this year when the State health department employed a physical therapy consultant full time. Services of this physical therapy consultant are offered to all nursing homes, either proprietary or governmental, to demonstrate the effectiveness of physical therapy in getting chronically ill and aging persons out of bed and capable of at least self-help. This service is supplied only at the request of the attending physician and ideally the type of treatment to be given is decided following a conference between the physical therapist and attending physician. By means of demonstration, the proficiencies of the practical nurses and aides in the nursing homes will be increased and all patients in the nursing home will receive better care. With a limited budget and staff, the State health department can only offer this type of service and consultation in the licensed nursing homes in the State.

The adoption of the Community Health Services and Facilities Act, Public Law 87-395, makes it possible to establish a statewide program of health services for the chronically ill and aging of the State. This law, which was only approved on October 5, 1961, has four main provisions. First, it authorizes increased community health service

grants to the State; second, provides for special project grants; third provides additional nursing home construction grants and fourth, provides for hospital research grants. In accordance with the first provision of the law, Nevada will receive additional health grant funds. Provided we receive an approval of the State budget director and Governor Sawyer, we plan to make full use of these funds to improve the care of the aged and chronically ill in their own homes or in nursing homes. The first step will be the expansion and improvement of home nursing services already described in Washoe County. Dr. Winikow, county health officer, tells me he is anxious and willing to expand the services of his department and believes he will be able to do so on a few days notice.

The second step in this program will be to inaugurate this visiting home nursing program in other parts of the State. Clark County has a well-organized local health department and with the employment of at least two additional nurses, a visiting nursing program could become a reality in Clark County. By increasing the public health nursing staff in Elko and White Pine Counties, home nursing services could be given in these counties and in the adjacent areas of two smaller counties of the State.

Besides the increased community health service grant, this act provides for special project grants. At the present time the State health department, and as far as I know neither of the full-time local health departments are planning to ask for any special project grants. However, a program for providing homemaker services for the chronically ill and aging has been discussed and is in the planning stage in the northeastern part of the State. This project is receiving the wholehearted support of the Nevada Tuberculosis and Health Association and the sponsors will very probably request a project grant to assist in establishing this homemaker service. A homemaker would supply any and all of the following services: Shopping; preparing, and serving meals; light cleaning; light laundry and mending; caring for children; acting as parental substitutes and assisting the ill and handicapped in carrying out the activities of daily living. The family may need and use the services of a visiting nurse or the services of a homemaker or, in some cases, a combination of both home nursing and homemaking. By the use of these services it is hoped that many of the chronically ill persons and those disabled due to aging will be able to stay at home and when hospitalization is necessary, their hospital stay will be shortened. It has been definitely proven that an elderly person is much happier at home if he or she can receive adequate care. Medical care of the chronically ill and aging population should not be considered a responsibility of the State health department. Dr. Francis Kernan, chairman of the geriatrics committee of the State medical society, will consider the subject of medical care for our aging population.

A third provision of the Community Health Services and Facilities Act provides for additional nursing home construction grants. For the past few years, Nevada has received \$50,000 each year in Federal matching funds to aid in the construction of nonprofit and governmental nursing homes. By the provision of the new bill, this amount has been doubled to make \$100,000 available to aid in nursing. The Hill-Burton construction grants to the State of Nevada are raised from \$500,000 to \$555,000 a year. At the present time there are two

nursing home units under construction as additions to general hospitals in Nevada. Mr. Donald Baker, director of hospital services, reports that there are at least three and possibly four nursing homes in the planning stage. An additional \$50,000 will hasten the planning and construction of these badly needed nursing homes.

The following figures were supplied by Mr. Baker as an indication of the nursing home needs of the State. Nevada has established a ratio for determining nursing home bed needs as 3 beds for 1,000 population. At the present time the State has a total of 475 nursing home beds of which only 321 can be considered as entirely "acceptable." Mr. Baker has estimated that the State needs an additional 490 beds and breaks down the needs as follows: Reno, 120; Elko, 40; Ely, 31; Fallon, 21; Carson City, 35; Yerington, 9; Hawthorne, 19; Las Vegas, 220.

These figures show additional facilities are greatly needed, especially in the more rapidly growing areas of the State and the fact that at least a third of the existing nursing home beds are classified as nonacceptable indicates that many of these facilities should be replaced in the near future.

Section 5 of the Community Health Services Act is one of the minor provisions, but in the long run may prove very important to Nevada. This section amends the definition of a rehabilitation facility. In the past, the very rigid definition has discouraged any sponsor in Nevada to use the \$50,000 matching funds for construction of a rehabilitation facility. With the liberalization of the definition, the Division of Hospital Services of the Nevada State Health Department has already received inquiries concerning the possibility of obtaining assistance in the construction of a rehabilitation facility in southern Nevada. The availability of a rehabilitation facility in the State would certainly be another step in the provision of an overall health program for the chronically ill and aging. Many of these people certainly could be candidates and receive much benefit from these services.

Mr. Chairman, I believe the adoption of the Community Health Services and Facilities Act is the most progressive step in Federal-State cooperation in the field of health in the 13 years I have been State health officer.

I wish to commend the members of this committee, and especially the members of the congressional delegation from Nevada. I know all three, Senator Bible, Senator Cannon, and Representative Baring, supported this bill. Our aging population present many problems to local, State, and Federal governments, but this is certainly a great step forward in providing better health services for both the chronically ill and the aging of our country. Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Dr. Hurley.

I would only make one comment. You mentioned with complete correctness in analyzing the Community Health Services Act of 1961 that this was for public institutions and nonprofit institutions, but it is also true that the Small Business Act has been liberalized so that money can be made available, and is being made available in the State of Nevada, for good proprietary nursing homes. As a matter of fact, we need all types of nursing homes. This has been a liberalization of the Small Business Administration Act in that particular respect, and this supplements the nonprofit and the public nursing homes as well.

I would simply add that to the very fine statement that you have made. Our next witness is Mr. Charles Cheatham, the Las Vegas district director of the Nevada State Welfare Department. Mr. Cheatham, very happy to have you with us.

**STATEMENT OF CHARLES CHEATHAM, LAS VEGAS DISTRICT
DIRECTOR, NEVADA STATE WELFARE DEPARTMENT**

Mr. CHEATHAM. Senator Bible, Senator Randolph, Congressman Baring, Mr. William Reidy, and Miss Dorothy McCamman.

The focus of the Nevada old-age assistance program is being placed to an ever-increasing extent on the development of services to enable aged persons to maintain themselves in their own homes as long as possible. There have been several specific developments in programs and policies directed toward achieving this objective. In 1957, provision was made to cover physician's services and drugs on an outpatient basis. Payment is made for a visiting-nurse service whenever available. Allowance is included in the grant to pay for a home aid to provide personal care and services which the aged individual is unable to do for himself and which would necessitate placement in an institution if not otherwise provided. Additional payment is made for rehabilitation services in nursing homes where such services can be utilized. These developments have come about only through the staunch convictions and cooperative effort of a considerable number of interested individuals and organizations.

The Nevada State Welfare and the Nevada State Medical Association have a contractual agreement unique to Nevada which represents a cooperative effort with the medical profession in meeting the needs of aged individuals on an outpatient basis. Recipients of old-age assistance and aid to the blind have free choice of physicians. In addition to these services, prescriptions and ancillary services, including dental, are available through this medical plan. Initial health inventory and yearly examinations are encouraged in the belief that early diagnosis and appropriate treatment will alleviate some of the chronic disabling conditions of the elderly. The preventive aspects of medicine are stressed, since keeping people well and functioning at optimum levels is more desirable and less costly than bringing the forces of medicine to bear after chronic illnesses have taken their toll.

With the advancing years there is often a decrease of vision and hearing. Natural teeth may need replacing. Therefore, an important part of the medical program is the provision for glasses, dentures, and hearing aids for those who need them.

**OLD-AGE ASSISTANCE AND AID TO THE BLIND, MEDICAL ONLY, EFFECTIVE
MARCH 1, 1961**

Applicants for old-age assistance and aid to the blind who have sufficient income to meet only everyday living expenses are eligible for all outpatient medical and remedial care provided other eligibility requirements are met. So far 12 persons have benefited from this provision. If medical service in such instances were not available, these persons would be forced to seek medical care from the county in which

case free choice of physician and continuity of care would be sacrificed.

The philosophy of preventive care and early appropriate treatment are stressed for persons receiving medical only.

HOME AID SERVICES UNDER THE OAA AND AB PROGRAMS

Under certain situations it may be preferable for a recipient to remain in his own home or return to his home and purchase needed personal care and services rather than to be admitted to or remain in an adult group care facility or nursing home. Personal care and services are those which are needed to help provide and maintain bodily and emotional comforts and, insofar as possible, to assist the client toward maximum self-care in his home environment. The need for personal care and services in lieu of group care or nursing home care must be based on a sound medical and social plan and must be reviewed frequently enough to insure that—

(a) The client is actually receiving the necessary care and services; and

(b) The need for such personal care and services continues.

Services which are limited to housekeeping functions only would be excluded. However, necessary housekeeping duties which are carried on as an adjunct to the personal care and services are included. (Reading newspapers, providing companionship, mowing lawns, taking care of pets and animals, running errands, et cetera, are not considered to be within the scope of personal care and services.) Therefore, in considering a home aid plan, an allowance from OAA may be made to purchase personal care and services only if the person would otherwise have to be maintained in a group care situation or nursing home. In making a determination as to what arrangements can best meet the client's needs (own home, group care, or nursing home) the worker considers all medical and social data to evaluate—

(1) The extent of the client's ability for self-care;

(2) The kind and amount of personal care and services the client needs;

(3) If the needed services can be purchased within the authorized allowance;

(4) If the client can be assured adequate care and services in his own home;

(5) The availability of persons who can supply the needed care and service.

If a careful review and evaluation of all medical and social factors indicate that home care is preferable, an allowance for the purchase of care and services in the client's own home in lieu of group care or nursing care may be made. Age and/or blindness are not in themselves adequate basis for home aid services.

VISITING NURSE SERVICE

In keeping with the philosophy of maintaining people in their own homes, Nevada State Welfare Department is participating financially and supportively in a demonstration project providing visiting nurse service. This project currently is limited to Washoe County. All old-age assistance recipients residing in Washoe County are eligible for visiting nurse service specifically prescribed by a licensed physi-

cian. The year demonstration is being used to collect social and medical and statistical data for evaluation of the need for and utilization of these services with a view toward a permanent and statewide program.

From January 1, 1961, to September 30, 1961, there were 274 visits made to 12 recipients of old-age assistance. There are four types of cases represented—heart, cancer, accident, and arthritis. The cost for such visiting nurse service is low in comparison with that of hospital or nursing home care. In addition, it has enabled these 12 older persons to remain in familiar surroundings without disruption of the patient-doctor relationship which occurs often when an aged patient enters the county hospital.

I have read to you, Senators, the statement from our State office, which represents the entire State of Nevada. I would like now to supplement my report with my firsthand observations from Clark County.

Now, to assist you in understanding our problems here, I think it is well to know that statistically as of July 1961 the entire State had 2,527 recipients of old-age assistance. Now, the average grant payment was \$77.83.

Clark County has roughly half of the population of the State of Nevada. We do not have half of the population in old-age assistance. We have at the present time, as of today, 620 recipients of old-age assistance. Our statistics also point out that of these 620 people that get assistance from us 70 percent, which is better than the State average, are receiving assistance through social security benefits.

Now, I would like to personally go on record to express our sincere appreciation for the program afforded us through the Federal Government. I feel very deeply that without the guidance and the financial support of the Federal Government Nevada, as well as many of the other States, would never have the program that we have today. I feel also very strongly that our citizens do not realize, and I am sure they would appreciate if they would only realize, the part that not only does the State play in the role of the aged but the part the Federal Government plays. Now, the records indicate, and should indicate, that half of the money spent in the State of Nevada for our old-age assistance recipients comes from the Federal Government and is appropriated on matching funds.

I feel, of course, that we are entitled to this money, because we pay the taxes to the Federal Government. But, on the other hand, we are most appreciative of the fact that we can, through the groups that have been organized in Clark County and throughout the State, better the condition of our aged people.

I am sure that as a committee you are interested in the individual and how he reacts to the program that we have, and consequently we have sent out over 600 letters, and we expect these people in force here this afternoon to tell you in person. I won't predict what they are going to tell you, but from day to day I do know that as a group they seem to be satisfied. I received a letter from a very old gentleman who said, "I am unable to come, but will you please convey to the committee that I feel that I have been adequately cared for and will

continue to be adequately cared for." I can't tell you his exact words, but he did indicate that his only anxiety was in a medical program. He says that he does not like to go to the county hospital and be an indigent.

Now, these people have honor. They feel that to go to the county and not be able to pay their own way is a bad thing. I certainly have sympathy for them.

Also in my capacity as district director I come across the person who is not eligible for medical treatments because they have sufficient funds to keep themselves together on a day-by-day basis. But we all recognize the extreme cost of hospitalization and medical treatment. I would like to go on record to say that in Clark County no one at this time to my knowledge is in need of medical care that is not receiving it. However, we do have people that have taken their life's savings and have spent for medical care what they are not able to afford to do. I feel very personally and very strongly that this is an area of great concern to the citizens of Nevada.

I would like to also mention in closing that we have had the cooperation of every citizen that we have asked to help us in understanding the problems of the aged. I think that this is on the increase, especially in Clark County. We have just had a committee meeting of nursing home facilities and boarding home facilities. You have heard previously a report that we need more of these facilities. Gentlemen, we do. And we have to keep up the standards. These aged people are placed in these homes, and we cannot condone them being placed in a place that is below agency standards. We have worked in this direction, and I can tell you that Boulder City has a very fine hospital and is planning on making its hospital available for nursing home patients. We need this type of thing.

We have at the present time in Clark County two licensed nursing homes. These are not adequate to fill our needs. And we know, as Congress gets together and works on medical care, that we in Nevada are going to have to have some place to put these people.

I wish to thank you on behalf on the Nevada State Welfare Department for the time extended me. Thank you very much.

Senator BIBLE. That is a fine statement, Mr. Cheatham. I am delighted that you supplemented your prepared statement by giving us the Clark County picture. I think you suggest a few questions.

I note that Dr. Hurley has indicated that there is an additional need of 220 beds in Las Vegas. Now, is this a realistic figure?

Mr. CHEATHAM. I say for the present time it's realistic, but as we grow it is unrealistic. We are going to need at least double that.

Senator BIBLE. And I suppose this would be the national pattern as the population continues to explode.

Now, you said that you had 620 on old-age assistance; is that correct?

Mr. CHEATHAM. That's correct, sir.

Senator BIBLE. Do you have any figures indicating how many receive social security of this? I am not quite clear on what you said.

Mr. CHEATHAM. Yes, sir. Of the 620, 70 percent are getting social security benefits. In other words, we supplement the social security. The social security payments average around—well, it would have to

be a guess—around \$70. Now, a person cannot live on \$70 a month; so we figure out the need and supplement social security payments to 70 percent of these people who are on our assistance rolls.

Senator BIBLE. Over and above these who are on your assistance rolls, do you have any figure as to the amount that receive social security alone that are not on your rolls?

Mr. CHEATHAM. No, sir. But I understand, from a report that was given prior, that 60-some-odd percent of the 18,000 people over 65 in Nevada are receiving social security benefits. The figure was given this morning.

Senator BIBLE. Would that figure hold true here in Clark County? I am just trying to pinpoint it, because I don't have the Clark County figures.

Mr. CHEATHAM. I don't have them either, sir. But we are very proud of the fact that 70 percent of our people are receiving social security, and we figure that this figure will go up as social security benefits are extended.

I would like to go on record also to say that we wish that 100 percent of our old-age recipients were on social security.

Senator BIBLE. Yes; I understand that. I just didn't have the Clark County figure in mind for social security, broken-down just for Clark County. But I imagine that is easily secured from officials in the social security department.

Now, your last comments on the needs here in Clark County prompt several other questions; and can you indicate what you pay here for public assistance to those who are actually in a nursing home?

Mr. CHEATHAM. Yes, sir; I can.

Senator BIBLE. Is this still \$70?

Mr. CHEATHAM. In a nursing home we are limited to \$200. Now, we have a very fine nursing home, called the Elgin Nursing Home. It's a little over a year old. They will not take a patient for \$200. So consequently the only available nursing home we have at the present time is the county hospital, which has licensed a wing. And in reality there is no difference between the county hospital and the nursing home. We are able to pay from our funds \$130 per patient in the county nursing home.

Senator BIBLE. Well, is this a flat payment, I mean, or is it based upon a sliding scale depending upon the need of the person in the nursing home?

Mr. CHEATHAM. That's a flat payment, sir. We have hopes on January 1, 1962, to be able to increase our payment to a maximum of \$225., and this will be a classified scale; in other words, for those patients needing nursing home care, if they need the maximum nursing home care they will get \$225 cash from us, if they need the minimum they will receive \$175. Now, there is an average, which will be \$200, and we feel that the governmental average patient will get \$200 cash.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much. Your testimony has been most helpful.

We now return again to Dick Ham, who will now make a presentation as executive director of the State of Nevada Employment Security Department. His first presentation was on behalf of Governor Sawyer.

I know personally of the Governor's great interest in this field and the splendid work that he has done in this field since he has been the Governor, but now, on this particular occasion, Mr. Ham will speak as the executive director of the employment security department.

Mr. HAM. Senator Bible, I think we might have had a little crossing of wires here. Mr. Cheatham brought with him Mr. John Tait, who is with the bureau of services to the blind with the State welfare department, and his testimony is tied in with the State welfare, and I would prefer his first, if you don't mind, sir.

Senator BIBLE. No, we don't mind. We had Mr. Tait listed as a witness, and we had him following you, and I'm very happy to have him precede you.

Mr. Tait, we will be delighted to hear from you, sir. We have your prepared statement here, and you can just testify in your own manner.

**STATEMENT OF JOHN D. TAIT, REHABILITATION COUNSELOR,
BUREAU OF SERVICES TO THE BLIND, NEVADA STATE WELFARE
DEPARTMENT**

Mr. TAIT. Well, I would like to thank you, Senator Bible, Senator Randolph, and Representative Baring, and distinguished guests, for the opportunity of speaking to you. I am a relative newcomer to Nevada here, but I am very much impressed with the program that John Ruiz and some of the other fellows have been developing, and I am looking forward to working within it.

I believe that the program was set up originally in recognition of the fact that blind persons indeed have a tendency to become submerged if they are lumped within a general program, and that in the case of blindness it requires certain specialized approaches.

Now I would like to tell you about what the bureau is doing for older blind citizens in Nevada.

In developing the bureau's program in a meaningful constellation of services to persons who are blind, it was quickly realized that the majority of persons on our register are over 65. Consequently, we have endeavored to plan our programs and projects in such a way that they will make ample allowance for the needs of our senior citizens, while at the same time afford a range of services which will be meaningful to all blind persons in this State.

As developed, the bureau's services fall into two major areas; namely, vocational rehabilitation and social rehabilitation.

While some older blind persons have successfully obtained employment through the efforts of our vocational rehabilitation program, it appears that, at least for the present, the greater number on our register will continue to receive services within the framework of our social rehabilitation program.

Senator BIBLE. Right at that point, John, how many blind people are there in the State of Nevada?

Mr. TAIT. I understand there are about 350 or 400 which we know of. This is a relatively new program, and I think that we have a lot of casefinding to do before we will really be able to give you an accurate figure. But that's about it.

Senator BIBLE. You say between 350 and 400 blind in Nevada. Mr. Cheatham is indicating he would like to be heard.

Mr. CHEATHAM. Yes. I happen to know that in the Clark County area we have 60 blind that are on our assistance rolls, but we have 93 blind people in Clark County. Now, on the assistance rolls in the State as of July 1961 there were 179 blind people.

Senator BIBLE. We are glad to have that supplementary material. Thank you, John. You may just proceed.

Mr. TAIT. I have about 125 blind persons in Clark County.

The services provided within this program are designed to assist blinded persons to lead a life of independence and self-reliance. Some of the specific services—

Senator RANDOLPH. Mr. Chairman, I hesitate to interrupt. But when you speak of the independence of the blind and we hear the testimony of Mr. Tait, I would like to remind all of us in this room how true it is that the blind can carry on the day-by-day work which is often thought to be reserved for men and women of sight.

Twenty-five years ago legislation was passed at the Federal level which called for the blind, where they were qualified through Federal and State agencies to meet certain requirements, to operate the so-called small business stands in the Federal buildings of the United States. This has since been extended to the park areas of the country. There were during the past year more than 2,000 blind persons in this country who were self-sustaining, who were operating these stands in Federal installations and buildings. They did a gross business of almost \$40 million and earned for themselves something like \$5,500,000.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Senator Randolph. And I concur wholeheartedly with your observations.

In your modesty you failed to say that you were one of the real pioneers in this particular area, and have been throughout your years of public service. You are entitled to great credit for that, because this is an area in which much good has been done, and I certainly appreciate your comments.

Mr. TAIT. I would like to make one supplement to Senator Randolph's remarks, because we do have a very thriving stand on Boulder Dam. It had a slightly rocky way, but it got there, and it's doing a very good business. We are also going to be installing one in the county courthouse here shortly.

Some of the specific services included are:

- (1) A program of prevention of blindness and sight restoration.
- (2) An optical aids clinic.
- (3) Talking book machine program.
- (4) An orientation training course.
- (5) Home instructions.
- (6) Counseling and guidance.

These services of independent living are organized into a sequential pattern, and timed in keeping with the individual's capacity to progress from one service to the next.

Through education, treatment and surgery under our prevention of Blindness and Sight Restoration program many older blinded persons have been able to recover their sight and resume their former way of life.

Other persons are receiving substantial help through our optical aids clinic located in Reno. This clinic employs the latest optometric techniques and devices to equip blind persons to utilize to the fullest any residual vision which they may possess. Many older persons who

have not been helped with regular glasses have been provided with special magnifiers and lenses which have enabled them to again read and carry on the everyday activities of daily living. When necessary, we provide round-trip transportation as well as trained attendants for those who are unable to travel to the clinic by themselves.

We also maintain an active talking-book-machine program which enables many older persons, who cannot read because of poor vision, to enjoy current event magazines, as well as modern and classical literature through the use of records which are distributed free of charge by the Library of Congress.

In keeping with the concept that the rehabilitation counselor must know his clients as well as possible in order to provide them with the most meaningful services, the bureau has developed a very unique orientation training course. At present, it is held annually and lasts for 2 weeks. During this period, approximately 25 clients along with their counselors and visiting specialists live together in a residential resort located at Lake Tahoe. Here, in a school setting, instructions are given in mobility (cane travel), communications (telephone dialing and script writing), household arts, home mechanics, grooming, and independent living techniques. This program also affords ample opportunity for the trainee to rediscover and develop recreational interests. We also carry on group discussion under qualified leaders. Through this medium the counselor is able to make a comprehensive evaluation of each client's needs and progress. The counselor's direct observations are supplemented by daily all-staff client-evaluation conferences. Thus, as well as providing the client with a concentrated training course, this program serves as a basis upon which his counselor can build a meaningful pattern of services during the succeeding year in the client's own community. Finally, this course also affords the trainee an opportunity to compare his progress with others who are facing the same problems.

The bureau also provides extensive teaching and home teaching services. Whenever possible, clients are required to come to the office for instruction and help in their problem areas of adjustment. However, we realize that for many aging persons this is not possible and, therefore, in such cases, the rehabilitation counselor either goes to the person's home and provides the necessary instructions or arranges for qualified tutors.

Through these services, many older persons who are blind, have become able to travel outside their homes, to read and write braille, type, cook, sew, and have become proficient in a variety of handicrafts. For those who travel, the bureau sponsors classes from time to time in these subjects, at Southern Nevada Sightless, Inc., a private center for blind persons, devoted to social and educational activities. Through this medium, many aging persons are provided with a social life and activity which they would not receive if instruction were restricted to their homes.

In carrying out these programs and projects which are designed for human conservation and restoration, we are fortunate in having a quantity of devices and aids which have been especially adapted to the use of blind persons. There are script writing guides which enable blind persons to write in straight lines without overlapping; there are

also especially adapted clocks, watches, and timers; carpenter tools, cooking aids, medical aids, sewing aids, and so on. Such aids as these are provided free of charge to older and younger blind persons as they become significant in the person's total rehabilitation plan.

With the current progress of medical science, it appears that over the next decade, our overage 65 population will sharply increase. It behooves us as social service agencies to develop sound plans to meet this challenge. We must begin to take steps which will enable our older citizens to be active contributing members of society rather than something to be pacified and viewed as a burden. We, in the bureau of services to the blind, feel we have taken some of these steps. However, we also know, that there is a long, somewhat uncharted road ahead, before our senior citizens will assume their rightful place in their communities.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Mr. Tait, for your splendid statement. This is a field of great interest. It's a great, challenging field. I am privileged, as I said earlier, to serve on the Subcommittee on Health, Education, and Welfare, and I have heard doctors say just within the period of the last 2 or 3 months appearing and testifying before us that the research that they are doing in the diseases of the eyes offers great possibilities in the future, and somewhere along the way some of these present problems of blindness are going to be solved, there are going to be breakthroughs.

I can't help but comment that when I started out on the Washington level I was running an elevator—and I thought sometimes maybe that I would just as soon be back running an elevator—but during this period of time we had two blind Senators in the U.S. Senate. One was Senator Gore from Oklahoma, a brilliant man, completely blind. He did a terrific job in representing his State. And there was a second blind Senator from Minnesota, Senator Schall. I saw them from the vantage point of being an elevator boy. I also heard them many, many times. They were splendid representatives from the two States in which they served. So it just shows some of the things that can be done with this determination.

Now, it has been suggested to me by Mr. Reidy—and you did mention the providing of transportation to oculists for the blind—that possibly this was a service which should also be enlarged to other handicapped people, not to the blind alone. He has also suggested that, rather than a governmental service program, possibly this is something that could be done on a local volunteer basis by people who would take great satisfaction in volunteering and doing this sort of thing, taking them not only to possibly their oculists, or to their doctors, or for medical care, or services, but possibly out for some recreation and possibly to visit and see others.

Do you have any experience in this particular area, or do you have any comments that you would like to make?

Mr. TAIT. Well, here around the Las Vegas area we have Southern Nevada Sightless, which is a private organization, and they have really done a tremendous amount in offering this voluntary type of help. I think that it is worth knowing that many of the people that do this voluntary help are older persons, and I really think that one of the ways that people make their lives meaningful to themselves is by doing for others, and I think that this is serving a very fine function for both blind people and the people who are helping them.

Senator BIBLE. I certainly appreciate that observation. Thank you very much, Mr. Tait.

Senator BIBLE. Now we return to Dick Ham.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENT OF RICHARD HAM,¹ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEVADA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

Mr. HAM. Mr. Chairman, I would like to express my appreciation in being asked to appear before this committee. I feel I am among friends since we are concerned with mutual problems that undoubtedly could be solved more readily through mutual study.

I am certainly impressed with Mr. Tait's testimony, and in the field of employment we have found that there are many handicaps people can have. Of course, age is one of the greatest ones. Blindness is another very serious handicap. Very often we find being a woman is a handicap.

I might say that in the employment security department at the present time we have two blind telephone operators. They are both over the age of 45, and they are both women. They are the most competent and dependable operators that our department has ever had.

The Department of Employment Security of the State of Nevada has for some time maintained statistics on the older worker. It should be made clear that a worker over the age of 45 is termed "older" for statistical purposes only.

This arbitrary standard is not a factor in determining employee qualifications. The department considers a worker old only when he experiences difficulty solely because of his age, or when the aging process aggravates or multiplies other problems.

Unfortunately, the age of 45 is a factor with many employers. They are unquestionably governed in their actions by public opinion, which has decreed that when a worker reaches a specified age, his efficiency and ability must decrease.

Statistics compiled by our department reveal that an alarming number of workers experience difficulty in securing employment, regardless of their qualifications, after reaching the age of 45.

Let's look at those statistics. The 1960 census gave the population of Nevada as 285,278. Of this total, 59,000 were between the ages of 45 and 64, and 18,000 were 65 and older.

This makes a total of 77,000 Nevada residents over 45. They represent only 27 percent of the State's total population.

And yet, statistics show that 56 percent of all Nevadans who have been unemployed for a long period of time are over the age of 45. These are the individuals who have exhausted regular unemployment benefits and are now included in the temporary extended unemployment compensation program.

¹ Mr. Ham is the executive director of the State of Nevada Department of Employment Security. Prior to his appointment by Gov. Grant Sawyer in January 1959, he was engaged in business in Boulder City, Nev.

Mr. Ham served as a member of the Governor's Committee on Aging. He has recently completed a term as vice president of the Interstate Conference of Employment Security Agencies. He served on Governor Sawyer's State Institutions Committee and is presently president of the Nevada Society for Crippled Children.

A native of Arkansas, he moved to Nevada in 1932 and received his education in the Las Vegas public schools, the University of California, and George Washington University.

Among those presently participating in the regular unemployment insurance program, 41.7 percent are over age 45. This figure is more encouraging, but is still far in excess of normal.

What is the solution? We in the employment security department realize the seriousness of the problem. I personally feel the older worker represents the most serious labor problem in Nevada. I have instructed our personnel to consider this program of primary importance in their operations.

Now, I list here for the extension of the record, some of the services that we provide for the older worker, and I would say that one of the most important services is the effort on behalf of the department to encourage employers to modify their age restrictions.

Intensive interviewing to determine more fully their possible job qualifications.

More thorough and extensive employment counseling, to assist them in choosing a suitable field of work, or to aid them in overcoming lack of confidence and other problems.

Use of aptitude and proficiency tests as an aid in determining suitable types of work.

Assistance in preparing résumés of their background which would more effectively point out their job qualifications to employers.

Referral to training facilities for the acquisition of new or additional skills or occupations.

Solicitation of suitable job opportunities, by telephone and by personal contacts with employers.

Special efforts to eliminate or modify age specifications by employers.

This last point is of particular importance to success in placing the older worker. A recent survey conducted by our employment service revealed that, in many cases, employers are receptive to statistics which prove the capability of the worker over age 45. I do not mean to imply that this has generally become the case. It has not. But there have been cases where an employer has specified an age limit when contacting one of our offices for a worker and has dropped this restriction after a further discussion of the merits.

Placement of the woman worker over age 45 represents a serious problem. Our statistics reveal that three out of four women who become unemployed after reaching that chronological boundary will still be out of work 15 weeks later.

There are several factors involved here, and the employers aren't entirely to blame. The older woman has the double disadvantage of her age and sex in an already competitive world and often she has no preparation to compete in the labor market. In many instances, she is entering the labor field for the first time as the result of the death of a husband, financial losses, or other causes. She needs to become a wage earner but has no work experience, no job training, and often inadequate educational qualifications.

She also may have a fear of the unfamiliar business world, a defeatist attitude toward age, lack of self-confidence, inability to adjust attitudes and behavior patterns of home life to business life, and the tendency to be domineering.

The problem of employment for older women is potentially more serious than for men because of their pronounced rate of population growth and their increased participation in the labor force. The

greatest relative growth in labor force participation in the period 1920-60 occurred among women aged 35 to 64. By 1975, women in the population may outnumber men by slightly more than 3 million. This net increase is confined to the female age group 45 or over.

There can be only one answer to the problem. Training or retraining programs for the woman worker must be intensified on a community level. At present, it is our policy to encourage those entering the labor field for the first time or those reentering after a lapse of some years, to acquire practical skills. These skills may be obtained through self-training or through attendance at adult education classes.

The opportunities are particularly good in the clerical field, where the turnover is high. These jobs are filled mainly by young women, but many of them leave when they marry, or if they continue to work after marriage, when they have children. Other young office workers may be college graduates who have taken a clerical job to gain experience in a particular business or industry and then advance to professional or administrative work.

Once the older woman has undergone necessary training or retraining, and once she has made an honest appraisal of her capabilities and limitations, then she has done her part.

I have made brief mention of the prejudices against the older worker encountered among employers. These prejudices, responsible for the arbitrary age limits, include the following:

The older worker is too slow.

Older workers are more accident-prone.

Older workers seeking jobs tend to be drifters.

It doesn't pay to invest in training older workers because they will only work a few more years.

Older workers do not mix well with younger employees.

Older workers are hard to supervise. They won't take direction from younger persons. They insist on doing things their own way.

Older workers can't adjust to new job conditions.

Investigation has shown these objections to be without basis. If anything, the contrary is true. As evidence, employers who have hired older workers cite these desirable attributes:

They are more stable. A younger worker is usually ready to make a change for any better offer.

Less time is wasted on the job by older workers.

Older workers generally have steady work habits and a serious attitude toward their job.

They have consistently less absenteeism.

They have a sense of loyalty and responsibility to job and employer.

They usually require less supervision, once oriented to the job.

They are less distracted by outside interests or influences, and are capable of greater concentration.

Their morale is higher.

The Department of Employment Security has attempted to work closely with both the employer and the older worker in an attempt to resolve many of the problems. Recently, the Employment Service participated in an earnings opportunity forum for mature women, sponsored statewide by the Business and Professional Womens' Clubs. Other activities of a similar nature are planned for the future.

All personnel in the department are fully cognizant of the problems involved in placing the older worker, but we do not segregate this particular age group and treat it as an individual program. Rather, we integrate the applicants over 45 years of age with other jobseekers. Selection and referral is made on a basis of qualifications.

We have found this system produces better results in finding jobs for older workers. If they were listed in a separate category, some of our personnel might unconsciously overlook them while trying to quickly satisfy the needs of an employer.

Most important, we do not want to relegate our interest in employment of the older worker to a monthly or yearly promotional pitch. His capabilities should be promoted on a steady day-to-day basis.

I would like to make one more reference to statistics. In 1960 the local offices of our department placed 29,193 workers in new jobs. Of this number 7,604 or 26.5 percent, were over 45 years of age. This was a substantial increase, percentagewise, over our 1959 total and indicates that some progress is being made.

This leaves us far short of an acceptable standard, however, the fact that other States are experiencing similar problems in finding employment for the older worker is small consolation. We are concerned primarily with our figures, and they reveal that the situation will get worse before it gets better.

Thank you very much.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Dick Ham.

I might say in this field of job opportunities and job placement for older women that our committee has found, when we are able to make training available, that one of the areas where they can best be used is in the field of practical nursing. This probably ties in with their career as a homemaker, and sometimes it's work that can be very close to home, and something in which the Federal Government has taken a considerable interest. Funds, as you know, are made available by the Federal Government for the training of practical nurses, and this is one area where we think that we can help.

Mr. HAM. Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. Our next witness is Dr. Kernan, coming to us as the chairman of the Governor's Committee on Aging.

Dr. Kernan has had a very distinguished medical career. He holds his A.B. from Harvard College; his M.D. from Columbia. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine. He is a practicing physician in Reno, Nev., and of course is appearing here this morning as the chairman of the Governor's Committee on Aging. This is another longtime, close and personal friend of mine, and so it is a particular pleasure for me to call upon Dr. Kernan.

STATEMENT OF FRANCIS M. KERNAN, M.D., CHAIRMAN, GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON AGING

Dr. KERNAN. Thank you.

Senator Bible, Senator Randolph, Congressman Baring, distinguished guests, and ladies and gentlemen, this is a very broad statement on health programs, the problems of the aging, and will necessarily duplicate a number of remarks that you heard from the previous speakers, but I will leave them in for the sake of emphasis.

I would like to point out parenthetically here that the emphasis on all these things in Nevada has been for self-help, community help, and State help, and only going to Uncle Sam for a return of some of our income tax money where we need it, and that we only ask that we get it on a fair basis. We have no particular objection to subsidizing people in other States—in Mississippi, where they get 80 percent on some programs. We get at most 50 percent. And so I hope that remains uppermost in your minds. We want to be independent, and when we do ask for something we are not going as beggars, we hope we are just getting back a fair share of our own money.

The problems in this field in Nevada are less pressing than in most States because of the small number, both in total figures and percentage-wise, of those over 65 years of age—although Senator Bible has showed you that that figure is going up. Our recent growth in population is in younger groups. Fundamentally the problems are the same. We grow old here like others elsewhere. Our health is perhaps above average, our income is above average, but so is our cost of living. We have a scattered population with 75 percent in two cities nearly 500 miles apart, and 25 percent spread throughout the sixth largest State in the Union. This results to a considerable degree in concentration of medical services with transportation problems for some. In general the quality of services is excellent. However, more doctors are needed, we have fewer than the national average, more hospital and nursing home beds are needed. As these are supplied they do not catch up with the growth in population.

One handicap in building hospitals is the matching formula for Hill-Burton funds under which we are penalized because of the small population. For instance, I am told, a \$2 million bond issue for Washoe Medical Center is matched by only \$232,000 of Hill-Burton funds, yet because of higher income we pay higher income taxes, and some of our money is channeled to hospitals in other States. More nursing homes are needed and some are being built with private funds; high costs are a deterrent. The standards for nursing homes are being raised with the cooperation of the operators. Visiting nurse services have been inaugurated and will be expanded in a unique system under which the Washoe County Medical Society is responsible for obtaining funds and the county health department for conducting the program, and organizations such as the Cancer Society, individuals, and as a demonstration the Nevada State Welfare Department, have contributed the funds. Along similar lines homemaker services are being inaugurated sponsored by the woman's auxiliary to the Nevada State Medical Society. Another project is the Nevada Physicians Service being set up to provide for medical services to interested groups through contracts with insurance carriers.

The public assistance medical care program for recipients of old-age assistance and aid to the blind also operates under a unique contractual arrangement with the Nevada State Medical Association. It furnishes annual examinations for detection and prevention of disease, as well as office and home calls by physicians, and drugs, and some prostheses, glasses, trusses, and so forth. Recently there has been an enlargement of this program to include medical care only, for people able to meet their living costs without aid, but not able to meet medical costs—a program in miniature like the medical aid to the aged, MAA, feature of the Kerr-Mills law enacted by the Congress last year. This law is rapidly gaining acceptance by the States.

It goes right to the heart of the problem of financing health care for the comparatively few oldsters needing help yet not on public assistance. This sensible approach is extremely heartening. When you consider also that the number of people on the welfare rolls is steadily decreasing despite the constant and accelerating increase in the numbers of those that have passed their 65th birthday, it is obvious that the financial problems of the elderly are decreasing and their problems of financing medical care particularly are lessening, not increasing, as some seem to believe.

Also I might point out that medical costs are some sort of bugaboo, "it's horrible, it's terrible." But are they the worst? A recent survey of the U.S. Labor Department showed that, while doctors receive 89 percent more money for their services than they did 20, or was it 30, years ago, when this survey started, labor gets 286 percent more pay; so that a plumber can buy my services for fewer hours of his time, and I have to put more time in to buy his services than was the case 20 or 30 years ago.

And that process seems to be going on all the time. An amusing story that bears this out, which is why I picked on plumbers, is that told by one of our doctors in Reno. He was called at 3 o'clock one morning by an elderly gentleman, a patient of his he knew was sick. He wanted him to come out at 3 o'clock. He asked, "Why?" The man said, "I have been vomiting." He asked, "When did that start?" He said, "At 12 o'clock." "Well," the doctor said, "are you still vomiting?" He replied, "No, I don't feel so bad now." "Well," the doctor asked, "Why can't it wait?" He said, "Doc, my false teeth went into the toilet, and I can't reach them, and I thought you would have a long forceps, you could probably get them for me." "Well," said the doctor, "Why don't you call a plumber?" He said, "Why, I couldn't afford to call a plumber at this time of night."

Now, this relative improvement is a composite result of many factors: increased incomes in productive years, personal savings, investments, homeownership, social security checks, private annuities, corporate pension plans, veterans pensions. Don't forget also that one-fourth of those over 65 are employed. The tremendous increase in health and hospital insurance now carried by over half the elderly is a big factor. Though complete figures are not obtainable Nevadans probably are better insured than the average. Two years ago in a study of half the State's hospital admissions for 1959, 46 percent of the pay patients over 65 were insured.

The above considerations led to the recommendations of the Governor's Committee on Aging to the Governor and to the White House Conference for Financing Medical Care as follows: By voluntary health and hospital insurance, by implementing the Kerr-Mills bill for the relatively few Nevadans who need MAA, by increased welfare benefit for the decreasing numbers that need them.

Our recommendations also, with a view to improving income, included establishment of an employment service for the elderly and the retired, abolition of a compulsory retirement age, and removing the limitation of earnings by social security recipients. We also recommended the correction of abuses and curbing of chiselers, by realistic reevaluation of lien laws, and responsible relatives laws and application of a means test before providing services for non-service-

connected disabilities at the veterans' hospitals. Nevada, like 80 percent of the States contributing reports to the White House Conference on Aging, did not recommend financing health care under the social-security mechanism.

There are some outstanding deficiencies in our State's setup for mental health care and physical and mental rehabilitation. The treatment of the mentally ill lies in the hands of a few privately practicing psychiatrists and the State mental hospital near Reno. The distance from other population centers, especially Las Vegas, militates against the full use of the hospital's facilities for the entire State. It is of concern to us here mainly because the State hospital operates a large section reserved as a home for custodial care of elderly people who are not psychotic but confused, requiring a little help that is not available elsewhere. An excellent job is being done, but at the expense of the primary functions of the hospital, and again even for this purpose it largely serves only the area immediately surrounding the hospital with little benefit to the rest of the State. An attempt, by a demonstration project in the Las Vegas area, to substitute intensive short term care in a small ward at Rose De Lima Hospital plus outpatient treatment for the mentally ill, is underway—essentially to prove or disprove the contention that a second State mental hospital is needed. I don't know how this will come out, but the geriatric patient is left completely out of it.

Rehabilitation is lagging because of a lack of funds, of rehabilitation centers, and of trained personnel and employment opportunities for the handicapped elderly. One physiotherapist employed by the State health department is attempting to teach physical rehabilitation to the personnel operating nursing homes.

Now this meeting is scheduled to cover as subject matter, "State-Federal." The scope is not clearly defined, but other such meetings have been limited to one subject, such as housing. Nothing fits "State-Federal" better than the Kerr-Mills bill, Public Law 86-778, enacted by last year's Congress. It is the law of the land; it provides that Nevada, on a 50-50 matching basis can receive funds equal to whatever this State's legislature sees fit to appropriate for whatever medical services are desired, for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment by physicians, nurses, home health care, inpatient hospital services, outpatient or clinic services, physical therapy, dentistry, laboratory, X-ray, drugs, glasses, dentures, and other prosthetic devices and any other medical care or remedial care recognized under State law. The State may set its own eligibility requirements; there is no upper or lower limit to the funds available to be matched, and there are no restrictions whatever, save that both institutional and noninstitutional services be included, and that only vendor payments be made, and no lengthy residence be required.

Our State and 27 or more other States have taken advantage of this law. Others will, but like many, Nevada has only used it and obtained funds for increasing benefits for those on old-age assistance and aid to the blind. This is fine so far as it goes.

Here you have it—a Federal law on the books that: facilitates the procuring of anything needed for the health of the elderly who cannot afford to pay for it, but who are supporting themselves so far as basic needs are concerned, whether they are on social security or not. Remember, this is a diminishing group like that on the welfare

rolls, steadily dropping in numbers. I am informed that where the program has been instituted on a large scale, the numbers applying have been much less than anticipated. If the same trends continue, the cost should eventually drop. Yet this is the group about which so much furor and false pity have been raised. It is a group by and large that stands with pride and dignity aloof from the charlatans and pried pipers who try to exploit or weld it into political units. It is independent of either party and cherishes its independence in political as well as other fields. Perhaps individuals in it are independent to a fault, nowhere more so than in Nevada. May it keep its independence, may it get the help it needs, but may that help not be a gift to those who do not need it. And may our State legislature not be indifferent at its next session.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you, Doctor. I recognize that you present to this committee a viewpoint that is not shared by all of us, but then this is a viewpoint, and this is the purpose of a hearing such as this. The area that you covered is one that does have a bit of a difference of opinion in it, and a little controversy here and there, and it is one with which we are very familiar on the Federal level. It is a proper part of the Federal-State relationship, and I am very happy to have had your comments and your own viewpoint on it.

Well, then what I will do, because the gentleman does have an afternoon commitment, I will close the morning hearings with James F. Baker.

James Baker is the current Director of the Federal Housing Administration. He is a native Nevadan, raised in McGill, Nev., attended the University of California in Berkeley and graduated with an AB degree there in 1940.

He served 5½ years in the Army, reached a high rank in the Army, and he returned to Reno, Nev., in 1946 and accepted a position as executive director of the housing authority of the city of Reno.

It was during his tenure as a director of the housing authority that a new 150-unit project of low rent housing was initiated and the plans for a 100-unit project designed for the elderly senior citizens started moving. On June 26 of this year he was appointed to his current position as Director of the Federal Housing Administration of Nevada.

Mr. Baker.

STATEMENT OF JAMES F. BAKER, DIRECTOR, FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BAKER. Senator Bible, Senator Randolph, Congressman Baring, distinguished members of the committee, and ladies and gentlemen.

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to testify before this committee. The problems of the elderly are not only of concern to those who are now in their twilight years, but are of equal concern to all of us, for time is a very fast and fleeting thing—soon we will all be old.

All of us, I am sure, are aware of the real burden which inflation has placed upon the elderly. The elderly of today find themselves in the position of not being able to pay the high costs of a minimum of subsistence. And suddenly because of their age or physical incapacity

they can no longer earn a living. If they were frugal and have saved money during their earning years, they find that a dollar saved 20 years ago is worth only a half a dollar today. Also, what of the parents of large families who have never been able to save for their old age.

I would like to confine my remarks to housing for the elderly. My concern is with the lower and middle income because I believe those elderly above the middle income have no real housing problem.

It has been my pleasure to have been director of the housing authority of the city of Reno for 14 years. Last March 3 the Reno Housing Authority contracted with the Bureau of Census to make a survey of substandard housing in the Reno-Sparks area. I would like to quote portions of the survey to give a picture of rental housing conditions as it applies to the lower income elderly.

This survey was conducted for the purpose of finding how many families lived in substandard housing and it is confined to substandard housing.

(1) There were 561 renter families whose head of the household was 65 years of age or older living in substandard housing.

(2) Of the 561 families, 364 lived in one room.

(3) 166 had only cold water piped into their living quarters. 17 had water piped to the outside of their units and 19 had no water at all.

(4) 445 shared a flush toilet, 52 had no toilet.

(5) 428 shared a bath or shower, and 87 had no bath or shower.

I would like to make note here that of the 561 substandard rentals, there were only 32 units occupied by two or more persons. This fact definitely indicates that by far our largest problem in the low income area is confined to the single elderly tenant.

One more point worthwhile making is that this survey did not consider how many substandard units were owner occupied. Another point worthy of mention is that this survey only indicates the plight of the low income elderly group and does not give any picture of the housing conditions imposed on the middle income group.

What efforts have been made by local communities to fill this need of housing for the lower income elderly group? The Las Vegas Housing Authority has built 40 units of housing for the low income elderly group and is currently planning 125 more units. Reno, through the Reno Housing Authority, is currently planning for 100 units.

All of these units, both in Reno and Las Vegas, are being built with the physical needs of the elderly in mind. We are aware and have made a start to solve the low income elderly housing problem. However, what are we doing to solve the problem of the middle income elderly group. Consider, if you will, an elderly couple with an income of \$200 to \$300 per month who have always rented their own housing. This family, incomewise, is normally considered as the bottom of the middle income group. Their income is too high to be considered as eligible for low rent elderly public housing and too low to build or rent adequate private housing.

The Federal Housing Administration has several programs for the purpose of helping to provide rental housing for the middle income group. The FHA will guarantee insurance for 100 percent loans to nonprofit corporations, fraternal organizations, labor unions, public

bodies. Also, they will guarantee loans up to 90 percent for profit-making institutions who will build elderly projects adhering to the Federal Housing Administration regulations. Frankly, this program has fallen flat in Nevada. To this date there has not been a single elderly housing project built under any of the guaranteed insurance programs of the FHA.

The FHA has insured a loan for a first-class nursing home in Las Vegas and indications are that there will be other nursing homes built in Las Vegas and Reno.

What is the reason for the lack of rental housing being built for the elderly? Primarily the answer can be found in the fact that there is insufficient profit incentive for private capital to venture into this area of investment.

The Federal and municipal governments have wisely entered into the area of urban renewal and redevelopment of cities, recognizing that cities alone cannot bear the financial burden of modernizing and redeveloping their cities. As a condition of Federal financing, the Federal Government has imposed restrictions which make it mandatory for cities to present adequate feasible plans known as a workable program. Local financial assistance is considered for the proper location of schools, parks, freeways, etc. It would appear to me that special assistance to profit motivated investors building elderly projects could be made a part of urban renewal and development legislation as it applies to their area of operation.

In any event the recognition that present legislation has not offered sufficient incentive for private developers to enter the field of elderly housing is, in my opinion, justification for further investigation and improved legislation.

I should like to suggest that a further study be made of the possible means of financing both rental units and homes for the elderly. This study should include as a prerequisite to financing that proper concern and assurances be made to the extent that recreation, hospital or nursing care be given consideration.

Perhaps consideration for submarket interest rates could be granted not only to limited dividend or nonprofit organizations, but to profit-motivated organizations who agree to build elderly projects. This legislation would be similar to section 221(d)(3) of the present Housing Act, but would be expanded to consider elderly housing as a special subject to be built by private profitmaking organizations. Also, it could be possible to liberalize the provisions of the present 221(d)(3) law in regard to the building of elderly housing by a limited dividend corporation.

Possibly a system of Federal, State, local matching funds for the purpose of subsidizing elderly housing could be worked out. The crux of the whole expansion of the elderly housing is to be found in the proper financing of the project.

A thorough study of Federal assistance to finance elderly housing through existing Federal agencies should be made on a State level. As I previously mentioned, the Federal Housing Administration does make it possible for 100 percent loans to be made to public bodies. I think a more thorough examination of the provisions of this act could be made on a State and local level to see what agency in a State or locality could qualify for this 100 percent financing.

I would also like to suggest that Dr. Kernan's committee be revitalized to the extent that it is given some funds to operate with.

Dr. KERNAN, I believe that we have run out of funds, have we?

Dr. KERNAN. We never did have any, except from the Federal Government. We thank you. We sent back \$300.

Mr. BAKER. That is not only a problem of the Federal Government, of course, it is a problem of the State, and since the Governor has appointed this committee I would like to suggest that he suggest to the legislature that funds be appropriated for the continuation of this program.

Mr. HAM. Might I say something at this time?

Senator BIBLE. Yes, Mr. Ham.

Mr. HAM. In the last session of the Nevada State Legislature, Governor Sawyer did ask that this be made a permanent committee and requested an appropriation for the operation of the committee. However, it was turned down by the legislature. Knowing Governor Sawyer, he hasn't given up, and undoubtedly will make similar recommendations at the next session.

Mr. BAKER. Then I think it is a question that proper information be given to the legislators of the State, to the extent that they recognize this problem; and if people such as Dr. Kernan and other members of this group are willing to give their time, certainly they should be able to spend some money to provide proper research and pass it on to the people who are concerned with the legislation.

After having contributed a lifetime to the building of our great country, we can and should devise some means of housing for our elderly senior citizens so that they can enjoy their remaining years in peace and serenity. Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much for your statement, Mr. Baker.

I simply want to say that this entire morning has been most helpful to the committee. This has been a splendid panel, and you have suggested many, many ideas the committee can consider when we return to our labors in Washington in January.

As the wrap-up man of the morning session I want to call on the Senator from West Virginia, Senator Randolph, to make such comments and whatever summary he would care to make on the morning session.

Senator RANDOLPH. Senator Bible has indicated the value which is shared by the members of the committee and our staff—to the testimony which has been adduced here in Nevada. It has been a stimulating session in that you have counseled with us, and you have based your statements upon practical experience in this State. There is no more valid way in which to implement laws presently upon the statute books at the Federal level and to pass enabling legislation at the State level than to have the actual experience translated in such an informative manner as we have heard it today.

I shall attempt to be brief. That's difficult, of course, for a member of the legislative body.

The Governor's statement presented in his absence, a necessary absence, was for me, and perhaps for the committee, highlighted by the reasoning which he expressed that the programs for the aging in Nevada be fashioned toward the use of the creative powers of this

important, as he calls it, untapped reservoir of the population in this State. We think of the happiness, we think of the comfort, but, more importantly, I think the Governor has placed his hand exactly on the problem, he thinks of using the creative powers, the potential is here and here, and I am delighted to have listened carefully to Mr. Ham's reading of the statement of your chief executive.

Mr. Jolly spoke particularly of the reciprocal features between the States and the matter of residence requirements for benefits.

I do share with you the realization that we have become a mobile people to a degree, and to attempt to straitjacket with unnecessary regulation the residence requirement or the eligibility requirement might, very frankly, do violence to the real intent of both the Federal and the State legislative bodies.

Mr. Schultz I think brought out the fact that there is a rehabilitation program which is moving forward in this State. And I hope that it is not inappropriate to say that there are many of us who believe that with rehabilitation there is a need for retraining of workers. I am happy that the Senate of the United States, although the House has not yet concurred, has during its past session of this 87th Congress enacted, insofar as the Senate is concerned—I'm sure the President would sign it if the House passed a similar bill—legislation to retrain workers, workers who are displaced because of some structural unemployment which is very likely to run over a long period of time and not be just transitory, but to remain as a chronic type of unemployment. We can retrain and in a sense rehabilitate these people so that they can take these new positions and their skills can be fashioned to hold these new jobs. So I think the changes which are taking place in our industrial economy, certainly the changes which come with peculiar impact here in the State of Nevada, are going to give rise, Mr. Schultz, to further programs of rehabilitation, fitting as it were people into jobs, into service positions. We used to think just of production, but service positions are very important in our changing economy.

And I was impressed, of course, with what Dr. Hurley had to say about the program of homemaker services in this State, and that you are actually taking steps, at least in one section of the State, to establish this homemaker service. It is very important sometimes to think of the fact that the closer you can keep to his or her home, as they have known it through the years, older people, perhaps the better we can handle all of these rehabilitation programs which we have been discussing. Sometimes to move a person to a far-away housing project is very alluring, but that older person, who has lived with persons within a certain neighborhood, loses this contact, this warmth, and if we can do this through a homemaker service or similar type of service nearer home it might be valuable.

I remember in our hearings in 1959, Senator Bible, one specific person speaking from the floor, as your citizenry will address themselves this afternoon, who said that she wanted to remain in her own neighborhood—and, as I recall so very well, it was in San Francisco. She said, "I go to church here. There will be no church out there," where they were thinking of terms of relocation. So this is a problem, and one to be considered, the development of homemaker services.

Now, Mr. Cheatham, I think, very pointedly brought out this idea when he talked about the relationship in familiar surroundings between often the patient and the doctor. And I compliment those who spoke of the problems which occur in this area.

Mr. Tait, I think that when you spelled out the six programs which are actually in being or which are proposed in the State of Nevada, you gave an indication that it is not enough just to talk but it is important that affirmative action be undertaken. I will not attempt to go into those programs which have been set forth as desirable.

Mr. Ham, you spoke in your own right, of course, in reference to the matters of job opportunities, and you seemed to indicate that women are having some difficulty. I hadn't known that really to the extent that you have indicated. You spoke about this population growth, and you gave us a figure that by 1975 the women in our population may outnumber men by slightly more than 3 million. I will probably cut this from the record later, but Senator Bible, Representative Baring, and the Senator from West Virginia well know that today there are 3,500,000 more women of voting age in the United States than men, and so we recognize you as a powerful force at the ballot box, of course, and in all aspects of life. But there is certainly a validity to your statement in reference to some of the possibilities as well as the problems inherent in employment of women.

Dr. Kernan, we might say that we reserved you for last—not that you were last actually, because Mr. Baker was last, but Mr. Baker in a degree was an added starter. But I will comment.

I think I might say to all of you that sometimes one State is better able to move forward in one area of activity than is another State. We must surely recognize that. I could say I am disappointed that Nevada is not one of the States. There have been 20 States that have already moved forward in the matter of the implementation of the so-called Kerr-Mills law of which you have spoken. And I do not want to draw out any colloquy, but Dr. Kernan, could you tell us perhaps why Nevada hasn't moved, why it is one of those States in which no action has been taken—or someone else perhaps on the panel?

Dr. KERNAN. I can give you a brief observation. The State welfare department was charged with drawing up a bill to implement the MAA features, but because of its preoccupation with other things it did not do so.¹ However, our message to the Governor, or report, contained enough information for him to get the grant for the OAS and aid to the blind program to have that increased, and so I suppose it was the temper of the legislature which was cutting welfare funds a little bit at the time that was responsible.

I appeared before the house assembly ways and means committee in an attempt to have a continuing committee with some State funds so that we could go ahead and accomplish something in all the fields of aging; and they were very courteous, in fact I thought I had persuaded them, but they have a large wastebasket, and that's where the bill went.

¹ A supplemental statement of the Nevada State Welfare Department appears in the appendix on p. 613.

Now, they are conscious of costs, and these medical programs can become very costly. You need a pilot, you need to watch Michigan or some other State—

Senator RANDOLPH. West Virginia. We were among the first.

Dr. KERNAN. Yes, West Virginia. And then, we are aware that Colorado is going bankrupt because of its overgenerosity in the matter of hospitalization in its State plan. They started a very ambitious one some years ago, and now they are running so far in the red that they've got to cut back.

You don't know what these things will cost. The Federal Government hasn't the faintest idea what they will cost. The disability features of your social security program are now costing what it was contemplated they would cost 5 years from now.

So I think that was the thing that scared them. They are giving a little; they gave enough to increase that for the people in most dire need, and I think they can be persuaded if we put before them a bill which will limit it. It was contemplated that we would do so, that the welfare department would ask for some funds for rehabilitation, in and out of hospitals, and very little else as I recall, as a starter. We have to do it that way, I think, especially with the experience of Colorado in mind.

Senator RANDOLPH. Then very few persons have been helped actually since, let's say, March of this year, would that be correct?

Dr. KERNAN. Well, as you may have noticed in my report and in one of the others, the State welfare department under a broad definition of the authority it has is already making payments to some people who pay their own rent and buy their clothes, but they pay for their medical expenses. They have that authority apparently without recourse to new legislation. They have only a few, I think they said 12, who have applied so far, but I haven't seen any publicity about it. I think they could get more. They are feeling their way too. They don't want to have it. As you may not know, the doctors are getting 70 percent of the fees they are supposed to get from the welfare program, and those were substandard fees to start with. That pays for the drug costs and things which have been higher than anticipated. But our State society has this flexible program whereby we agreed to do this, so we are picking up the tab to the extent that there would be a deficit had we not that sort of a contract.

Senator RANDOLPH. I think this flexibility is desirable—not only in this field but in many areas. You were speaking of Mississippi, and some others might think of other States.

I don't want to labor the point, but we in West Virginia, for example, find that the wealth is literally pulled out of our hills and valleys by some corporations who pay their taxes through other State jurisdictions. Their wealth has been made in West Virginia, but their incorporation in other States doesn't reflect really the contribution which the State of West Virginia produced to the profits which allowed the companies to prosper. I only mention that fact. By and large perhaps it evens itself out.

In the State of Nevada you have a sales tax; is that correct?

Dr. KERNAN. Correct.

Senator RANDOLPH. These hundreds of thousands of people who come into Nevada are contributing the funds which help Nevada to foster a program for people who remain here.

I am not attempting to go into these matters except to say that there are these leveling influences which are applicable. And I do know that certainly Nevada has been one of the States which has shown progress in the field of old-age assistance. I had not meant to be critical of the State for failing to be one of those first States to have medical assistance programs for the aged, except to try, if I could, to find just what the situation is here. To explore the climate here for a possible implementation at the State level of the program which has been unfolded under the Kerr-Mills law.

I spoke of 20 States. It is 19 States, I believe, that have actually moved in this area.

Mr. Baker, we were impressed with your knowledge of this subject, especially as it was focused on housing and the financing of housing. Recently in my own State we had approval for a housing project for the city of Buckhannon. It is a fine community of 5,000 or 6,000 persons. There was designated 20 percent of those housing units for the elderly. And so I think people are beginning to act, not only in the metropolitan areas, but in the more rural communities of our country, for a reasonable solution to housing so that these older people will not find themselves burdened with costs that they cannot conceivably bear or discharge in a reasonable number of years.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you very much for allowing me to comment on the very splendid testimony which has been presented this morning.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you, Senator Randolph. I think this was a splendid wrap-up of an excellent morning session and a well-prepared panel.

Now, this afternoon we are going to lead off with Mrs. Woodbury, then Mrs. White, and then Mrs. Thompson. After that we are hopeful that there will be a town meeting, that those of our senior citizens present can speak for themselves and tell us of their problems, possibly some of their hopes, and some of their thinking on the Federal and State activities which are needed.

We will stand in recess until 2 p.m.

(Whereupon, at 1 p.m., a recess was taken until 2 p.m., of the same day.)

AFTERNOON SESSION

The hearing was resumed, pursuant to taking of the noon recess, at 2 p.m.

Senator BIBLE. The afternoon meeting will come to order.

This is the time that we have set for the hearing of additional witnesses, and anybody else who wants to be heard.

Our first witness this afternoon on our list that we have here is Mrs. Ethel M. Woodbury. We will next hear from Mrs. Juanita White and Mrs. Hazel Thompson, and possibly from Mrs. Dorothy Werner, who has come a long way, from Hawthorne, and she will either testify then or later, just as she chooses, or file a statement. We leave this up to the people that are here. If there is anybody else here who wants to be heard, we are prepared to stay here long enough to hear everybody.

So our first witness this afternoon is Mrs. Ethel Woodbury, who serves as the chairman of the Southern Nevada Area Governor's Committee on Aging. Mrs. Woodbury.

**STATEMENT OF MRS. ETHEL WOODBURY, NEVADA DEMOCRATIC
STATE CHAIRWOMAN; CHAIRMAN, SOUTHERN NEVADA AREA
GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON AGING**

Mrs. WOODBURY. Thank you.

Senator Bible, Senator Randolph, Mr. Reidy, and Miss McCamman.

I worked on the housing committee at our conference in Washington, D.C., last January, and have continued to work with that, and of course, other elements of our aged group. Recently I have been doing some work with Mr. Gerson, who is the director of the Housing Authority of the city of Las Vegas.

As some of you know, we have a very fine housing project here, but we are in need of a lot more. So I would like to go one with the report as it was given to me by Mr. Gerson. It says:

Pursuant to your request for a report on the activities of this housing authority in reference to the progress we are making in our housing for the senior citizen, I desire to inform you as follows:

In the early part of this year the city council, after counsel by your committee, requested our authority to make a survey and an application to house the aged. Subsequently we did make an application for 200 units for housing for the elderly. We arrived at this figure of estimated needs from a limited survey which we made and subsequent application on a 20-unit housing for elderly.

This 20-unit project was constructed, as you are aware, on the corner of 12th and Mesquite Streets from authority-owned funds. These funds are a reserve created through the acquisition of a temporary Lanham project which we received from the Government in the early part of 1956. The 20 units cost us approximately a quarter million dollars. Knowing the length of time it takes to accumulate such reserves, and becoming more familiar with the market for housing the elderly in this area, we determined that to go any further we would need Federal assistance.

Following the application we made to the Public Housing Administration for 200 units we were requested to back up our application with facts enough through a survey. We found it extremely difficult to conduct a proper survey in Las Vegas with the limited funds available, but we did—with the assistance of four enumerators—make a partial canvass of the city but only of those in welfare status. We came up with a potential market which was surprising. Based on this survey we requested a visit of the regional economist from the Public Housing Administration to confer with us on our needs. This was during the month of April 1961 and, because there was only a small number of units available from a residue of the 1959 Housing Act, the regional economist assured us that, even though we had a potentially larger market he could—at that time, by reason of units available nationally—only agree to approve an application for 125 units. However, it was agreed that a redetermination of need will be resurveyed at a later date. Should the survey at that time justify, we, naturally, will apply for more units.

Anticipating the possibility that the 1961 Congress might not pass a housing for the aged bill—or any other housing program—we found it necessary to pull all stops out to get under the deadline of June 1 so that a development program could be proposed and submitted to the Public Housing Administration for approval in order to secure an annual financial assistance contract with the Federal Government. By June 15 of this year we did have a financial assistance contract with the Federal Government for which we must express our utmost appreciation to the San Francisco field office of the Public Housing Administration and to Mr. Abner Silverman of the Washington office for assisting us. Subsequently, Mrs. Marie McGuire, now Commissioner of the Public Housing Administration, has shown a very sympathetic approach to our needs and has been very helpful and cooperative. Since receiving the contract from the Federal Government for financial assistance we secured the services of an architect by fee contract and he has prepared for us preliminary sketches and drawings of our proposal. The preliminary drawings and specifications were submitted to the

Public Housing Administration of San Francisco the latter part of September 1961 and have been approved. We have authorized our architect to proceed with the working drawings and specifications and we anticipate that we will go out to bid by the end of this year.

These 125 units will comprise 40 efficiency units for single elderly, 70 one-bedroom units for couples and 15 two-bedroom units for use where there may be more than two elderly persons living together. The numbers of the different sizes, naturally, were based on our survey percentage-wise. These units will be modern in all respects and particular attention in the construction will be paid to the needs of the elderly. There will be no steps, the electrical outlets will be placed conveniently, cooling will be by refrigeration, heating by gas, and cooking will be by electricity; the floors will have resilient cover, and garden space will be provided for the individual as a hobby. Throughout the project will be placed areas for recreation such as horseshoes, and other games the elderly enjoy, together with covered "kibitzer" locations. There will be seven central washrooms scattered throughout the project in which there will be automatic washers for use and closed drying yards.

The grounds will be beautifully landscaped. In addition, our plans call for a community and social building which will house the office, a large meeting room, a fully equipped kitchen, a library, and clinic; outdoor recreational facilities such as barbecue, fish ponds, et cetera, all of which would add to the enjoyment and livability of the project. While we have secured the financial assistance for the construction, houses and social facilities spaces, we find that we may be stalemated in attempting to meet the social requirement of the aged. Remember, we are housers, and no funds are allowed us for employment of sufficiently qualified social workers. It would seem to me that we now have funds to house the aged but have no tools with which to assist them in enjoying the facilities that we are able to construct.

We would suggest that, at the next session of the Congress, some method be legislated whereby the social services which are really required for an operation such as we have could be assured and either the funds set up which could, in most cases, be secured from the rental reserves or specific appropriation be made for a well-qualified public organization, working closely with the authority, to take over this phase of the responsibility for the aged.

One point we must bear in mind, and that is because of our mild and inviting climate, elderly folks are prone to stay and retire in this area, thus creating an abnormal demand for assistance, populationwise, in comparison with other communities.

It has been a pleasure to have worked with the housing authority, and I want to emphasize my deepest appreciation to the housing authority and also all of the committees who have worked with us.

Mrs. WOODBURY. I might say that since this report was made—the report went in some time ago—we had quite a fire here which took one of our oldtime hotels, which actually, possibly, should have been condemned a long time ago. This hotel housed about 75 of our elderly people.

Now, I can't say too much for the rooms that these people were housed in, because they didn't amount to much more than just little boxlike structures, and when our committee made their survey many of our surveyors came back with tears in their eyes, after seeing what some of our citizens were living in. These people have had a hard time being placed in other places to live, and I think we have got to take all of this into consideration.

Now, our housing authority group is now in Washington finalizing these 125 units that we are going to have here. This is a wonderful thing. But we do have a backlog of about 240 applications at the present time that were there after we built the first 20 units and, as our population grows, we are going to have more and more applicants because, as has been stated by some of our congressional committees and others who are in this welfare and senior citizen field, people do come here for the climate that we have. And it is a wonderful place

for them; we can't blame them for coming here. But we will have to look into the future and see what we can do and how we can get more funds to build more of these units for our elderly citizens.

Thank you very much, Senator Bible, and all of the rest of the committee, for your consideration for us.

SENATOR BIBLE. Well, we certainly appreciate having your statement here today, Ethel. It has been very helpful to us.

I personally have visited this project. It is a project that certainly the housing authority can well feel proud of. Now one thing—I don't believe it is in the statement, at least if it is I didn't catch it—and that is how much do these units rent for a month?

Mrs. WOODBURY. \$40 per month, including utilities.

SENATOR BIBLE. And will there be the same rental on these new 125 units?

Mrs. WOODBURY. Yes, it will be the same rental on the 125 units that are going in.

SENATOR BIBLE. Well, I have visited this project, and it is a large step in the right direction. It might be of interest to everyone to know that the former staff director of this very committee is now in charge of housing for the elderly in Washington, D.C., and so there is a sympathetic ear on the Washington level, and he certainly knows a great deal of your problems.

Our next witness is Mrs. Juanita White. Mrs. Juanita White is a retired college professor and research chemist. She was a member of the Governor's Committee on the Aging in Nevada, and she was a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging from Nevada. She has had a very distinguished career in public service for herself, and we look forward to her testimony.

STATEMENT OF MRS. JUANITA G. WHITE, MEMBER, GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON THE AGING IN NEVADA

Mrs. WHITE. Thank you. Senator Bible, Senator Randolph, ladies, and gentlemen, I am pleased to be here, even though it was done more or less on a 36-hour-notice proposition. But that was not the fault of the committee in charge, it was my fault because I was in Europe.

I will tell you a little bit about what was done in preparation for the White House Conference on Aging in Boulder City, and some of the findings there.

In January 1960, Boulder City, Nev., population 4,100, participated in a pilot survey of problems of aging for the Governor's Committee on Aging. There were 468 valid responses from citizens aged 45 and over. Of these, 332 were aged 45 to 64, 92 were 65 to 74, and 44 persons were over 75. This response represented a fair sampling of the community and proved to be singularly representative of the Nation.

Loneliness, financial insecurity in the face of spiraling inflation, and social insecurity were the chief complaints of the aging and those facing retirement on a fixed income. Inadequate and substandard housing, nursing homes, and recreational facilities were vigorously protested.

Suggested remedies for alleviation of financial problems were (1) elimination of mandatory retirement at 65 or any age for those willing and able to continue working; (2) flexible retirement programs to allow earlier retirement; (3) adequate preparation for retirement; (4) more adequate and realistic pension plans and social security allowances; and (5) more part-time work to keep retirees useful and busy.

The majority of those over 45 urged that the limitations on earnings outside social security be abolished completely to enable and encourage retirees to supplement their incomes, permitting them to live comfortably in their declining years and to continue to contribute to the national economy.

Two of our group indicated that they thought the Government owed them a living but most of the others indicated that they valued independence and self-respect, and resented the idea of handouts and doles. One "H.F." returned his blank with the following notation:

Regarding this program, I would like to state my opposition to the welfare state in any form. The ideal citizen should paddle his own canoe through the last rapids. To be sure, there are some who meet adversity that is not their fault. The obligation is first on their relatives. Lacking this, we used to have a poorfarm, a thorough, efficient organ of society. Not so desirable to go to, but that was one of its good points. As for old folks being lonely, that can be cured in 5 minutes. Let them get on the ball and do something for somebody else. I know. I'm old myself. * * *

Re health and hospital insurance: In Nevada we have PAM, a medical program for elderly, needy citizens. Additional Federal funds are now available under the Kerr-Mills Act but so far the State appropriation is sufficient only for the absolutely indigent. Action to extend the program to the near needy who would be bankrupted by catastrophic illness is urgent.

Of those responding, 279 (including the near needy) felt the need of health and hospital insurance for those over 65 to purchase on a voluntary basis at a price to fit the reduced budgets of retired persons. This need was so generally expressed that one of the recommendations from the State of Nevada to the White House Conference on Aging urged that some type of "subsidized medical insurance covering catastrophic illness should be provided, with the individual purchasing the insurance through commercial insurers and with the subsidy determined by the individual's ability to pay."

In this connection I feel duty bound to refer to the colossal job that is being done in this field by the American Association of Retired Persons. Their group health and hospital insurance coverage furnishes us with living proof of the creative power of organized self-help. In spite of tremendous obstacles, in 1958 they established a voluntary group hospital and surgical program which covers only those over 65, with no upper limit on age, no medical questions asked, and at a reasonable price. The program grows larger in enrollment and scope each year. Like Nevada, this group seems to believe that medical care is needed but should be available on a voluntary basis.

Re incomes: Only 55 out of 385 responding reported incomes of less than \$1,000 per year. (These incomes included State old-age allowances of course.) Many of them were spouses whose mate reported the family income. If practically all the income of an elderly couple is credited to the husband, one immediately ends up with 50 percent of elderly people in the group with very little or no income. Mean-

while the other half of the pair may have a tremendous income. In my own case, as a retiree, I have very little personal income so my statistics are among those that contribute to the perpetration of this fallacy.

Another interesting group of statistics divulged the fact that 57 of those over 65 (including 10 over 75) were either employed or self-employed, 17 with earnings over \$4,200 and 20 in the next lower bracket. Most retirees reporting earnings in the higher brackets had two or more sources of income. Such statistics as these help refute the common notion that all elderly people are sick, decrepit, dependent, and mentally inadequate.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Mrs. White, for your statement. This is helpful to the committee in attempting to evaluate these rather difficult problems of being of assistance in the area of the aged and the aging and to our senior citizens, and I appreciate your statement.

Our next witness is Mrs. Hazel Thompson.

Mrs. Thompson is the presiding president of the Golden Age Club for the Senior Citizens of the city of Las Vegas. She has been a resident of Las Vegas for many years, is an active member of the Griffith Methodist Church, and she has come here to acquaint us with the aims and problems confronting the senior citizens of this city.

**STATEMENT OF MRS. HAZEL THOMPSON, PRESIDING PRESIDENT
OF THE GOLDEN AGE CLUB FOR THE SENIOR CITIZENS OF THE
CITY OF LAS VEGAS, NEV.**

Mrs. THOMPSON. The Golden Age Club was organized in March 1958, and is sponsored by the department of recreation, through the efforts of Mr. H. B. Trent, superintendent of recreation, and Mr. Joe Marine, assistant superintendent. From its small but active beginning the Golden Age Club has increased to about 30 active present members.

With dues set at 50 cents a month, the group meets every Friday afternoon at 1 p.m. for informal games and relaxation at Dula Center.

Some of the aims the club wishes to achieve are to plan pleasant hours of varied program activities for our senior citizens in their leisure time, and an opportunity to meet new friends.

Perhaps our biggest aim is to increase our membership with constant efforts to interest more senior citizens to enjoy their leisure hours with this fine group.

I have brought along a program for this month, and I thought I would read it to you to show you what we are doing out there.

On October 6 we had progressive pinochle. On October 13 we had an outing, and it was a covered dish luncheon that was supposed to be held in the park, but we had that storm that day so we met in the recreation center and we had our covered dish luncheon and enjoyed a very good time.

Then on October 20 we had a birthday party for those who had a birthday that month, and we played bingo.

On October 27 we have a business meeting, and if we have any entertainment it comes during that time. And then we have card playing, pinochle, and canasta.

Then I have listed again the only ones who have a birthday next month so we will be ready for them.

Now to present the problems I know confront not only myself and our group but many of you.

Social security and retirement benefits: The benefits are not sufficient to cover the high cost of living, where here in the city of Las Vegas it is at a much higher rate because of its being a resort city.

Medical care: Health insurance is almost impossible to acquire at our age, and many are deprived of proper medical care with their present income.

Low-cost housing: I know how important this is as I have applied myself for occupancy in the first of such homes. Many are living in small, crowded rooms, or with their families, which sometimes proves very unsuccessful.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to discuss briefly with you our problems. I am leaving here with a feeling of assurance that in time to come they will be lessened considerably.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Mrs. Thompson.

I think clubs such as these would prove of great value in many areas of the country. I think the fact that you do attempt to keep the interest alive and to encourage them to be active is exactly the thing that should be done. I want to commend you for it.

Now, in the other part of the State we have had a very fine worker in a good cause, and this is Mrs. Dorothy Werner of Hawthorne. She has a project there that is probably not of complete statewide interest, but it is a project where she envisions the acquiring of certain excess surplus homes from the Navy Ammunition Depot at Hawthorne. They have some surplus homes there. And, as you know, they have to go through various agencies. They first have to check them out in that manner to see who would be eligible for them. But there are a number of homes in Hawthorne that fit in this category, and Mrs. Werner has had the vision to see that these homes could possibly be used to house the elderly.

I encouraged her to write this project up in full. It does have some problems in it because of the fact that they have difficulty in getting the necessary authority to handle the project, but I do want to commend Dorothy Werner for this before she gets away. I hope that you have the opportunity of individually talking with her, because we may be able to salvage a project in this direction which can be helpful.

Senator RANDOLPH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You had mentioned this project to me at luncheon, and I do hope that I will have the opportunity to talk with Mrs. Werner and perhaps to have the value of her testimony, but at least to talk with her about the project.

Senator BIBLE. This is a project on which she spent a lot of time. It seems to me there is some merit in it, and maybe it can be put together. I recognize that this is more or less of a local project, but the Federal Government is interested in this field, and here are some homes that are just deteriorating day after day. They are connected with a naval ammunition depot. I don't know whether you have ever visited there or not, but it is the main Navy ammunition depot for

the Pacific Fleet. It is a shame to see these houses standing idle while some real good use could be made of them, and I am hopeful that we can do something in that direction. I have no further questions of the panel.

TOWN MEETING

We come to the part of the program which we call our town meeting of the senior citizens, and we want the elderly people, the senior citizens here in Nevada, to tell us something about their problems.

Now, we are going to encourage those who want to speak, to do so. We hope you keep your statements somewhat limited in time, but we are anxious to hear from as many of you as we can. We have a microphone set up in the middle aisle, and we will ask each of you to approach the microphone and give your name and your address and tell us anything that you have on your mind concerning this program, either good or bad. Everything that is going to be said here is going to be printed, and it is going to be sent to every Senator and Congressman in Washington, D.C., and so this is your chance to make suggestions. I would hope that the suggestions that you make are made fairly short, make them concrete and attempt to give us suggestions that are helpful in improving the structures of the law. We cannot perform the impossible, but we certainly can attempt to strengthen laws and possibly meet some problems that we are not aware of.

I see the first man standing at the microphone is Reginald Vine, who has been very well known to many people in Clark County for many years.

So we will lead off with you in this town meeting of senior citizens, Mr. Vine.

STATEMENT OF REGINALD VINE, LAS VEGAS, NEV.

Mr. VINE. Senator Bible, Senator Randolph, and other distinguished gentlemen.

Now, gentlemen, what I want to tell you is that I am one of the men that established this program for the State of Nevada. I spent, at my own expense, as vice president of the State federation of labor, 5 days in Carson City to get this over in 1935, I think it was, or 1936. I think it was 1935 or 1934. And I'm sorry, Senator Bible, to inform you that I have found that I was a party to organizing and setting up a Frankenstein against myself in later years.

I am glad to hear that the program has done some good. I'm surprised to hear how much good it has done. But I know there was no trouble for a journeyman machinist to go out to find a job at any kind of age with any industry before they put on the social security system. I am telling you that it has become a curse to anyone at a skilled trade, to anyone over 40 years of age. I can give you a personal experience.

About 3, 4 years ago down in Los Angeles I looked at an advertisement from a well-known machine firm, and they advertised for a man to operate a boring bar from an 8-foot radial drill for cutting out a hole 8 inches in diameter or larger. So I said, that's just down my channel, that's just the job for me. So I went down and interviewed the personnel man. So everything was fine. He told me that he

advertised that job for 2 weeks and nobody has been able to show up for it. The ones who showed up and he showed them the job, they were afraid to tackle it. So he wanted to know my experience for it, and I told him I had done similar work like that for the Southern Pacific Railroad.

So I had a job. So I put down my true age. By the way, I am past this 62 years, and I am drawing a social security check in the amount of \$62 a month. So I should be in Ethel Woodbury's group, but I don't want a teenager to call on me and find out what's wrong with old age.

So he said, "Oh, change that to so-and-so, change that to so-and-so. I can't hire you because our insurance wouldn't OK it, and you have to change your age. So I said, "No, I won't change my age. I'm proud of it, and if anybody wants to dispute my age I'll take him on now." And that still holds good to anybody.

Some years ago, by the way of introduction that I know what I'm talking about, I wish to say that I organized the Central Labor Council, in 1933, at the Boulder Dam, and fostered the labor movement in Clark County, and I held their secretarial job for 15 years. For 5 years I had the questionable honor of being the personal representative in the area. And I also had the questionable honor of writing the labor provision in the Boulder Canyon Act and had it passed both by the Senate committee and the House committee without a congressional delegation knowing about it, and Pat McCarran said, "You are either a damn fool or a wise man, and I know you are no damn fool."

I will shorten it and bring it to an end. So anything you can do to drop the age limit on employment, that is the worst curse organized labor ever has confronted, and it is a Frankenstein.

STATEMENT OF MRS. AMELIA RAPP, LAS VEGAS

Mrs. RAPP. Amelia Rapp. I just wanted to say, I am not long here in America. I came over from Germany in 1949. I was 4 years in Portland, Oreg., working, and now I'm here in Las Vegas.

But I must say, Las Vegas has done me very well. I have been very satisfied, until now. Now I live not so very good. I live with my son, but I have his help, a very small home and a very small, little room. But I would just say, if we could get up some buildings, and we would like to have a building, and some rooms, or a room. But I have my own furniture. Nobody needs to give me anything, just a room.

That would be all what I have to say. Thank you.

Mr. REIDY. Did you say that you have your own furniture and all you want is a room of your own to put it in?

Mrs. RAPP. Yes.

STATEMENT OF OWEN WOODRUFF, NORTH LAS VEGAS

Mr. WOODRUFF. I am Owen Woodruff of North Las Vegas, the third largest city in Nevada.

I am an unemployed sheet-metal worker. I am age 62. My youngest daughter is 41½ years of age, so I know I'm going to work for many more years. I mean, I won't be able to retire on social security.

The word "self-help" has been used here several times today. Our lady speakers and others have used it. I think it came from the Governor. He said that he was anxious to tap this great reservoir of wealth which is represented by your capacity, and yours, and yours.

For instance, here is a man right here who is a hotel operator. On the West Side of Las Vegas is an unfinished hotel, with 100 rooms, on Owen Avenue. People are walking away with the bathtubs to build homes of their own, and the hotel is going to pieces because it doesn't have this type of man to manage it. He would also need a little bit of wealth to complete it.

By the way, here is a man right back here—will you stand up, you right there? How old are you?

MEMBER OF AUDIENCE. Going on 70.

MR. WOODRUFF. First time I ever met him was in the early days of the depression. I met him on top of Cedar Mountain, where he was running a sawmill, made up of unemployed people who pooled their resources, which were nothing, and financed by a little Government help. They bought their sawmill, cut tens of thousands of feet of fine, long lumber, built houses, and did the things that you folks are talking about.

Now let me say this. Today in the things that I have heard I've heard many bureaucrats, if you will pardon the expression, trying to tell how they need more money. This country was not built with money. This country was built by the Puritans, who came and traded beads for corn and squash and turkeys, and they used the resources that they had.

In Jamestown, Va., the boys were lonesome without their women. They sent to England and had their sweethearts come over and were married. They didn't have money to pay their passage, so they rolled hogsheads of tobacco up the gangplank and paid for their sweethearts.

As we come West we have log rollings; we built our homes. For instance, my people are Mormons. In Salt Lake City, 147 of them entered that valley without money. I would feel insulted if I find that there was \$5 in the whole outfit, because money was useless, and plows and implements were of great value. Those people came, and you've seen what they built, including the start of Las Vegas.

Now, I know that my time is limited, but I want to tell you folks, you're overlooking the greatest resource in the world when you don't make this word "self-help" come to life. You're talking about it, you're not doing anything about it. These folks have said—Mrs. Woodbury, one of our great leaders here—said that they have a plant, but they don't have social organization. You have the social organization. You have musicians, you have teachers, you have entertainers, you have them right here in your midst, but you're not using them.

You know, when we become recipients of old-age pensions we certainly become inferior. There is an Iron Curtain between us and Alan Bible, Walter Baring, and Howard Cannon, and these people. You don't know, because we can't tell you, that we haven't a restroom in our unemployment office, that thousands of people come there. Those that are employed have a restroom. They have the same in Reno, no restroom for the unemployed. But those that are employed have impulses like you, needing to go to a restroom. We don't. We

can spend 2 hours there. A baby cries and wants to go to the Johnie, you've got to take them for a walk for two blocks to try to find a service station to impose on those people for the facilities.

Why haven't these things been done? I'll tell you why. Because Alan Bible doesn't know about them, neither does Walter Baring. We have an Iron Curtain that's drawn between us and our leaders.

You don't know that the President of the United States is staying up until 4 o'clock in the morning to work on civil defense, and so you sit home and do nothing about it. Folks, if you haven't done anything else today, Mr. Chairman, you have done a fine thing in getting next to the common people. I've seen you meeting them. This man here has a project. You're crying and crying in West Virginia for help because your people are permanently unemployed. People all over this country could use that coal if produced by elderly citizens. And believe me, they still can mine at 55 and 65, they can still get the mining material out, and they have coal to trade for what they want, and we can go ahead in the American tradition.

And like that fine young man said, that Mr. Tait, the blind man, they appreciate and they love their independence. So do we old people. How many of you like your independence? Let's see a show of your hands. How many of you want to sit down and let the Government take care of you? I'm not asking you to raise your hands on that.

How many of you would like to remain independent?

I didn't say how many of you want to give up the three-pence that you're getting, what I'm saying is you can double your standard of living without increasing the cost of the Government \$1 if you'll put with the dollar that you have your ability to work.

Today we have heard that we can rehabilitate these people. They're here, and I know them and I love them. I mean, fine. You fellows will have to get busy, have a teacher that will teach you something constructive to do. But the ability is here to do it.

I apologize for using so much time, but let's get busy.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you, Owen Woodruff.

STATEMENT OF E. E. DARNELL, LAS VEGAS

Mr. DARNELL. Senator Bible, my name is E. E. Darnell, and I believe that I have something, a criticism, that is constructive to the social security.

I have been employed for 40 years, and most of the time I have been employed in public service. Now, the social security requires that anyone in private enterprise matches the money put in by men who are employed in their service, but it doesn't require that men working in public service pay into social security and that the Government, or city, county, State, matches that money. So for that reason a man puts in many years, as I have, in public service—in one place I worked 22½ years, I paid into a pension fund, and because I didn't finish another 2½ years to draw that fund I was denied it. They kept the money that I had paid in, and it was useless.

So later on I went into a few businesses for myself. I paid into the social security fund a matching fund for my employees, and I was not allowed to pay for myself at that time. Later on I was. I paid some for myself later on when the law was changed so that you could.

Well, then I got out of that business, I went back to work in a public place again. I worked for Clark County as chief security officer at the airport, McCarran Field, for 5 years. I was again forced to pay into a pension fund of the county, but not allowed to pay into the social security fund.

At the end of 5 years politics changed the administration. They appointed a new airport manager, who didn't like the way I parted my hair, and I was let out so that he could hire his father-in-law in my place when I was sick in bed.

Now, that 5 years that I have put in out here at McCarran Field for the county was again forfeited, and they gave me back what money I had paid in, and I was out again, and been out for 2 years now. I'm plenty strong and able to work, I know my business, and it isn't hard work, but I can't get a job because the local politics don't see fit.

Now, I claim that a man who works, I don't care where he works, whether he works for private enterprise or whether he works for the city, or the county, or the State, or the Federal Government, if the law says he is entitled to a pension from his efforts by paying into social security, then he's entitled to pay into it. That's my contention.

Mr. REIDY. I gather, Mr. Darnell, that you are suggesting that anybody who works ought to be allowed to pay into a pension fund?

Mr. DARNELL. Absolutely.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you, Mr. Darnell.

STATEMENT OF JOHN R. FISH, LAS VEGAS

Mr. FISH. My name is Fish—the dryland species, by the way, so don't get your fishing licenses out.

I have been interested in what has been said during the meeting this morning, and I want to compliment you people for coming here and doing what you are doing. I think it's a fine thing to get up on this level and meet the people and shake hands with them, let them know who you are and what you stand for, and that's what I think is going to do more good than any other thing.

But I do think we have too many levels to work on. I think if the Defense Department, for example, realized that they were living in the United States instead of some other place we could use a lot of these buses and trucks they's got parked out here, you know. The National Guard has got them parked out here, hundreds of thousands, doing nobody any good. Maybe once a year they run them across the street and put a little gas in them. We could use these busses and transportation to take care of the old people.

And we could also employ people who need a little employment to keep them from going nuts by not having anything to do by going out and getting up the history. I spoke to the Nevada Historical Society a month ago. Dr. Frazier of the university was there, and other dignitaries that I need not mention. But the question came up why we can't gather up some of these valuable histories and family journals scattered around the country and preserve them and let us know what our heritage was. I merely mention it to show that there is a good field for a lot of activity of the old people, who could go and gather up this information if they had somebody to guide them.

Well, I'm one that can do it. I'm not bragging, but I can do that. And I would like to see that people have the opportunity to gather this stuff, and their genealogies, and so on. The census department with their surveys that they make could use the old people going around. Even though they had to pay them a little bit, it would be better than doling it out. We don't like the dole.

My wife and I—I'm facing 70—have \$140 a month. Now, you try to live on it. If you put the Congressmen—I'm not saying anything against you personally—on \$140 a month there'd be the biggest howl you ever heard, because it's pretty hard to live on that.

Now, we talk about not having money. Let's take this unemployment work that we give these fellows when they're not working and let them build these Government houses free, and give them their employment check but let them earn it in that way. They would be still earning something, and we wouldn't have to worry about money. But we've got too many levels to consider, the Government level, State, city, whatever it might be. It all comes out of the same pocket. I think it ought to come nearer to home, and let us know how to earn our own livelihood and keep our respect and independence, and teach us the things we don't know, help us. I'm not as fast as I once was, can't talk as fast as I used to.

Senator BIBLE. You must have been a dandy in your earlier days then. You're doing pretty well right now.

Mr. FISH. Anyway, there's a lot of improvement to make. I don't have any criticism to make of what your efforts are trying to put over. Only that one thing up at Hawthorne, why can't we go and get those buildings? Who do they belong to, the Army people or Russia? It's all nonsense, all of this redtape. I think you fellows ought to correct some of that when you go back. And there are a lot of other conditions throughout the country similar to that. We don't have to live under those conditions we're living under. After all, we control a lot of votes, the old people. I don't believe any one clique or any one group should rule the world, but I think we should have our voice, we should be heard. Thank you very much.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MRS. CLARA POULOS, LAS VEGAS

Mrs. POULOS. I'm Clara Poulos, 75 years old.

Thirteen, fourteen, fifteen years ago I took arthritis in Detroit, Mich. And I had always worked, I've always loved to work, but I had to give it up, I couldn't work any longer. And my doctor was honest. He told me he couldn't do any more for me but that I need a warm, dry climate.

Well, I didn't know where to go. So he said he could send me down here, and I said, "Well, their medicine is no better than yours." He said, "It isn't the medicine, it's the climate. You won't need any medicine. That beautiful sunshine will be your medicine." So I said, "Well, it takes quite a bit of money to go and I'm sick and can't work," and he said, "Well, money is no good to you if you ain't got no health."

So I decided I'd come. I came down here. I didn't know nobody, couldn't work, couldn't lie down to sleep. I had this bronchial asthma, and I was in pain all the time, and I didn't care whether I lived or died.

I didn't have nobody living that's any relation to me, didn't know nobody.

Well, I got out in that sun 3, 4 hours a day. And I'd be walking along, and I'd feel as if somebody would be behind me pushing me. I'd look around and didn't see nothing. I thought I was crazy.

I went to a doctor. He said, "Don't you know what it was?" He said, "That strong sun drawing all that pain out of you. Don't you appreciate it?" I said, "I sure do." And that's it.

So about 4 months I was able to go to work. I was so happy. And I could eat some and I could rest some. Well, my money, though, run out, see, because I'd been sick so long. I was old enough for the old-age pension, but I had to live here 5 years before I could get it. Well, finally somebody told me about social security, and I got social security. I had lost my husband and children and everybody. So then when it got to be 5 years, why, then they put me on old-age pension. Well, the social security, after I was 72 I could work and make all I wanted to, but the old-age pension won't let you do it, you know. If you make \$5 they take it away from you. Yet they give you more money to live on in a way.

Now, the social security, it wouldn't pay my rent, let alone my food. Although, if I wasn't on both I might get more from that, I don't know. I'm not censuring them, I'm very happy for what they have done for me.

So it's been 3 years since they raised it, and they raised it this year. And before I got it the State had taken it out. They didn't even know if I'd live to get it or not. And they left me \$1. That's all they gave me. So I didn't make anything by getting a raise on social security.

So I don't know. I can work for them, and I'm willing to work, I'm able to work, and I want to work, but if I do the State will take it out. So what's the use to work for something you can't get?

But I love everybody here. Everybody shows hospitality, and I like them better than I did back in the East. There you don't know your next door neighbor. Everybody is so nice and good to you. Thank you all so much.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Mrs. Poulos.

Mr. REIDY. Anyone else who would like to tell the Senators what they have on their minds?

STATEMENT OF MRS. CLAIRE THEMMEER, LAS VEGAS, NEV.

Mrs. THEMMEER. I am Claire Themmeer, and I would like to say a little about this medical aid plan for the aged. Do you have anything that you're for with it?

Senator BIBLE. Will you ask your question again?

Mrs. THEMMEER. I would like to know about this medical aid bill that you are going to vote on shortly.

Senator BIBLE. Well, the Congress of the United States has already passed legislation that provides aid for the medically indigent on a matching basis with the States. That was the bill that was testified to this morning. The present Congress hasn't done anything further in this particular area. The Anderson-King bill is in committee, and I am not even advised whether the hearings have been completed, but it is

in committee. The bill that was testified to this morning is a bill that passed the 86th Congress, I think in the 2d session.

Mrs. THEMMER. Well, if it's so good why aren't the doctors and the American Medical Association for it instead of against it?

Senator BIBLE. Well, I suppose the correct answer to that is that that is a matter of viewpoint, and, of course, they have some viewpoints with which other people do not agree.

Dr. KERNAN. They are for it, Senator.

Senator BIBLE. The King-Anderson bill, she is referring to, I believe.

Mrs. THEMMER. The one in effect they are for; but the one that's coming up.

Senator BIBLE. She is speaking about the new bill, I think.

Mrs. THEMMER. Do you think Federal aid is better than State or county and local aid?

Senator BIBLE. Well, I think actually you need a combination of all of them in a good many different areas.

Mrs. THEMMER. Don't you think that tends toward communism, when the States gives up everything, that the Government takes it?

Senator BIBLE. Well, I think the State has a long way to go before it gives up everything that it has. I don't think that this leads to communism. My answer is "No."

Mrs. THEMMER. Well, my mother is 67, she lives in Tonopah, and I want to know just what can be done for her, why Federal aid is better.

Senator BIBLE. Well, of course, I don't know all of your mother's problems.

Mrs. THEMMER. They are the same as anybody else's.

Senator BIBLE. Some people have social security benefits coming to them, and some people do not. I don't know whether she is entitled to it, and I don't know her case history. She would come either under social security or old age.

Mrs. THEMMER. I think anybody has a case history. Even you do.

Senator BIBLE. That's right.

Mrs. THEMMER. So what's the difference? Are they going to benefit by having the Government pay for their medical aid, or are they going to be better off if they take their insurance, or just what is the best plan? What are you for? I mean, you represent us.

Senator BIBLE. And I indicated that we voted on this bill, we passed it, and my position on it is very clear. I voted for the medical bill coming within the framework of the social security system. This is the position I took.

Mrs. THEMMER. You mean added to social security, give the people the ability of choosing their own doctor and their own hospital?

Senator BIBLE. That's right, this permits them to do that.

Mrs. THEMMER. That's what I wanted to know.

STATEMENT OF MRS. ROSETTA FAY SANSON, NORTH LAS VEGAS

Mrs. SANSON. I am Mrs. Sanson. I live at 1801 Belmont, North Las Vegas.

I came here in the year of 1905 with my mother and seven children, and we've lived here and helped to build Las Vegas. And I'm prac-

tically alone now, my mother and all are gone, and I live with my widowed daughter. She gets \$100 a month from the State.

I was working in 1960, and I overdrew my social security by a couple of hundred dollars, I believe, so they cut me off to \$38. Well, I wrote in to Walter Baring and I told him myself, my daughter, and our two children couldn't live on \$138 a month. So I got a nice letter back from him—I have it in my purse if the Honorable Alan Bible would like to see it—stating that he had written to the social security and that they was giving me back \$30 a month and keeping out \$10.

Well, during this time I was in such need I went up and put in for my old-age pension. I'm 69 years old. So she said, "I will give you \$31 a month." I received one check for \$31, and then I received one for \$16.

Well, by this time the Honorable Walter Baring's letter had got back that I was getting \$30 back on my social security, of my husband's and mine. So my \$30 was stopped. They said, "You've got your money back, so we will give you \$1."

So since February I received \$1.

So in September I received a letter from them saying that my \$1 had been taken away, that I was only eligible for medical aid only.

And my son-in-law put down a downpayment on a home for us, and we pay \$85 a month. We pay our lights, we pay our garbage, our water, our gas, off of the \$176 for the four of us, my daughter and I and her two little boys, one 6 and one 10. And we just can't hardly meet it. It costs us 75 cents a day for milk for the two children, and we don't have nothing left to buy clothes. We don't know what meat is. The children eat hamburger so much that they won't even eat it any more.

I'd like to have help of some kind, and I thank you very much for taking up your time.

Senator BIBLE. Well, you and I have been longtime friends, and I know some of the problems that you have encountered. I don't know the case part of it, but we will certainly take a look at it and see if there are any suggestions.

Mrs. SANSON. Would you like to see these letters?

Senator BIBLE. After we have heard everyone that wants to be heard I will be very happy to. That is the very purpose of these town meetings, to have you people tell us your problems.

Here is another gentleman who indicates he would like to be heard.

STATEMENT OF MARTIN JONES, LAS VEGAS

Mr. JONES. Well, I don't know that I'd like to be heard or not, but it kind of touched me with the two women, the one that is 75 and this woman.

I'm a good, husky old boy, and I draw a pension and social security. Our work has become in such a situation that it's very embarrassing. The hospital and old-age assistance becomes very embarrassing with some people. They are crippled, they do not pay much attention to them, and they tell them, "Well, you're getting this for free, your turn will come," or "We'll let you know." Well, that's embarrassing.

While we are talking about that, let me put this in, that I want to be sure and get in. If you want to help a disabled person that's down and out, and the children are married, and they're not too

welcome around all of them on account of the daughter's husband, and the husband's wife, there's nothing that you can do any better than to set that poor old lady off independently, if she isn't treated like a person at her age thinks should be treated, and she's reasonable and trying to do the best she can and set a good pattern in life. I say, let that woman be independent, and "Take this \$10 bill and go up there to that doctor." He'll treat her. He won't embarrass her.

I seen a thing happen in California at that hospital. An old lady come in. She was all crippled. Nobody to help her. I'm a big, fat old boy. Of course, I'm crippled. Don't think nothing about it. I just got kind of one leg, and two big arms, and a big old empty head. But anyhow, I helped her in there. And she was in pain. These young doctors—of course they have them, the interns, you know, that waits on them. Finally she said, "When do you think you could get to me?"

"You're not paying for anything. You can set back for a while. You wait awhile, we'll get to you."

Well, you can guess at the rest of it. He finished waiting on his other patients. And if it hadn't been for two goodhearted, sensible nurses, I guess that I would kind of give him a lot to get his revenge on. But I done all right. You can guess at about what happened. I interfered with that a little, and I'm still proud of it.

So, to return to the helpless, if someone is crippled, he's down and out, he needs help, that's the man that needs it. Now, there's lots of us that's able bodied, and we would work, but you can't quite do it that way, my dear friend. You can't quite go through with it that way. You've got something to buck. We've got our schools, and our modern machineries, we've got our big way of doing things; and the way I look at it, and the way it proves to be, and the way I hear from across the country, and read, and all, there just isn't quite enough work for everybody. So, the younger ones want to work, they are trained, they should work. Well, let them work. Let people go ahead and work. But don't, when a man's 45, and especially 65, push him over there in that concentration proposition and say, "Well, you're no more."

So I think if we could figure some way that you could get social security, even though you had to bring up the payments from the employee and employer—they'll holler about it a little, but I went on social security at \$3.03 a day. I paid more than the man did today on social security, because at the very best if I carried six bits home in my pocket from the grocery store I was doing quite well.

These boys, they're making and paying much more than we did, three times, four, five times more social security, than we did. But look what they can do now. They have enough left out of that to go to the grocery store and pitch out the twenty and pay and have twenty left. So there's quite a difference.

I'm talking about dollars and cents and human kindness. So I would like to see some way figured that if a man can't work, they don't need him, however it happens, he could still be in a little bit, without being imposed on, anybody, and avoid being discriminated. So it would make a happy world to see all of us, here and all, and in some little home, and we come out, "Hello, Sam; hello, John; hi"—everybody feels good. But when they come out and they got the heads bowed, they have to go to the store, not quite enough to get what they

want, but they got to go to see whether they can get this or not, and then live until that next paycheck—so I want to see the things brought up in commonsense and in reason.

It's the dollar you put back here in the pocket is what we are looking for. We are not looking for what we owe people. Everybody owes, and I think the whole world will be in debt when this is all over. But anyhow, we are looking for something that the old people, they have to step out of the way, let them have some way of going along in their little lonesome, little way, the best they can make it, in a little bit more confidence. And that makes them proud. That's all I believe I can say.

STATEMENT OF RUTH REYNOLDS, LAS VEGAS

Mrs. REYNOLDS. My name is Ruth Reynolds. I work for a local doctor, in his office, and it seems to me a wonderful plan would be to offer more preventive medicine to our schools and to our older people. Even our older people would benefit by a program to rehabilitate them, to get them on a level of self-help.

And I'm in a position to know that students really appreciate a program. I taught a home nursing class to a group in college and high school, and the students told me that they received more benefit and they could use what I taught them more than anything else they received in school. Of course, I know they need their scholastic background and so on, but they also need practical help for helping themselves to keep well.

I think that's all.

Senator BIBLE. Well, that's very good, Mrs. Reynolds, and I think one helpful comment that was made this morning was in line with what you are developing. That was the fact that elderly women would make excellent practical nurses. I think maybe this is an area of self-help where there could be some real assistance, because if I am correctly advised nurses are in short supply throughout the United States, both the registered and the practical nurses, and I think this would have some real merit.

Do we have others that would care to say something?

STATEMENT OF MRS. OLENA HAWKINS, LAS VEGAS

Mrs. HAWKINS. I am Olena Hawkins, and I live at 616 Monroe. I have been in the State of Nevada going on 7 years now. I am past 65, and I would like to know about this housing project. I signed a letter about it, and then a lady came by to see me concerning it, but in the meantime I had gone over to this place over here trying to find somewhere to live. You know, living in other people's houses, you don't feel so well when you're not treated so good.

And I went over there, and they told me that I couldn't get a place over there unless I was with my husband, or unless I had children. Then when this one was built out here on Mesquite, I tried, and they said that wasn't available. So now I'm wondering, is there going to be one built for the West Side aged people? That's what I would like to know.

Senator BIBLE. I don't know the specific answer to your question. Certainly, on the Federal level housing is made available to the vari-

ous housing authorities throughout the United States, and I would hope that, if housing is needed there, that there can be some housing developed. I don't know whether one is slated right at the present time for the West Side, but I will certainly check it out and will let you know.

Mrs. HAWKINS. Well, we did sign up for it. I listened today and heard that there is another scheduled for San Francisco. I thought I heard that. I'm just wondering, is there going to be one available for the West Side?

Mrs. WOODBURY. I think there is going to be one available. Mr. Baker said something.

Senator BIBLE. Is one going to be available, Mr. Baker?

Mr. BAKER. It's in the process of being bid. They haven't let it out for bid yet.

Senator BIBLE. The answer is, there is one scheduled for the West Side.

STATEMENT OF JOHN WEBBER, LAS VEGAS

Mr. WEBBER. Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, I wish to express my thanks for being granted the privilege to speak to you in reference to the housing problem. I for one as an individual, I do not receive any assistance from the State of Nevada, or any other State. My sole income is \$72 per month social security. Surely you can realize the predicament which I am in. I'm on \$72 a month, of which I am paying \$30 rent in one of the most crummy places in the city of Las Vegas. Pardon my expression, but it is true nevertheless. And it is indeed a shame that such a State, as glorious State as the State of Nevada, has to have places of such sort where an individual person, single man in particular, has to live on a mere \$72 a month.

However, this should have been off the record, for I had no intention of emphasizing the condition in which I live. What I actually came up to the mike for is this, to point out to the Senators that they in particular should consider the two cases of the two elderly ladies, one 75 years old, and the other one almost there. Now, they indeed should be helped if anybody should be helped.

Then I would like to point out to the Senators one particular case, which I'm sure they will know of, that the State of California is even granting aliens the immediate assistance of not only social security but also old age. And surely, if the aliens are supposed to be provided with those funds, surely our American women above all should be entitled to it. I sincerely hope that there will be a day, and I live to see it, that our ladies and gentlemen of age shall have at least equal benefits as the aliens. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF ANDREW LYNCH, LAS VEGAS

Mr. LYNCH. My name is Andrew Lynch, and I live at a trailer court on Fremont Street, between 9th and 10th; I draw \$114, and I was born in 1885. I got my birth certificate right here.

I've been a bachelor, trying to keep clean clothes on. I like to look nice. I was kind of ashamed to ask for any more, but that's just an existence. I can't go no place. I can't go to a show. I don't drink anyway, but I can't even drink pop hardly. So I just want to see what you fellows could do for me.

I was going to the worker, so she gave me 7 first out of the State, then she gave me 3, made 10. I just thought maybe I might be able to. If I can't, it's all right anyway.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much.

TESTIMONY OF A WITNESS WHO DESIRED THAT HER NAME BE WITHHELD

ANONYMOUS WITNESS. I don't know if you are interested in what happens in California or just in Nevada.

Senator BIBLE. We are looking at the general picture. This is a nationwide problem.

ANONYMOUS WITNESS. Do I have to give my name?

Senator BIBLE. Not if you don't want to.

ANONYMOUS WITNESS. This little tenant broke her hip, and she went to the county hospital, stayed there about a month. They sent her to ——— Sanitarium, and she's been there nearly a year. She gets \$117, I believe, from the Government. By the time they take out the amount that she has to pay for her expenses, plus enough for a wheelchair, she has \$1 left. She can't even get aspirin without paying for it. She has to pay \$1.50 to have her head washed. She gets a bath once in 3 weeks.

I think those conditions ought to be looked into. That's the ——— Sanitarium in California.

Senator BIBLE. We will make a note of it.

ANONYMOUS WITNESS. Temple City, Calif.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you. Do we have anyone else that would care to be heard? We have about 20 or 25 minutes left.

TESTIMONY OF ARTHUR THOMAS, LAS VEGAS

Mr. THOMAS. Arthur Thomas is my name.

I have been here 20 years, and I put in for a house in 1952, and I haven't gotten there yet. My conditions where I'm living are unfavorable, and I would like to get one if there was any chance for me to get one.

Senator BIBLE. We will ask the staff people likewise to check into that.

Mr. THOMAS. I'm 78 years old. I'm not a baby.

Senator BIBLE. You look like a pretty husky guy for 78. We will take a look at it for you, Mr. Thomas.

Mr. THOMAS. I have worked here ever since I've been here. Finally they gave me a little pension. They stopped me from working, won't let me do nothing. I would work if I could get it. I'd be glad to. I'm able. I feel like I'm able. But I don't get it. So, thank you.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you, Mr. Thomas, and we will ask the staff to look into it.

STATEMENT OF JOSEPH KATZ, LAS VEGAS

Mr. KATZ. Mr. Senator, I have a complaint to make. My name is Joseph Katz.

I come from Miami 4 years ago up here for the climate, as I suffer with arthritis. I filed an appeal for my unemployment. I made

\$1,200, and when I want to get unemployment they denied it. So I filed an appeal, and this is the result I get:

"The decision of your appeal.

"The referee finds in all respects benefits are denied, under section 612-375 of Nevada Revised Statutes."

Now, I don't know what that 612 or 375 means. Why don't they tell me why I'm denied? There's other men where I worked, they're getting unemployment. I don't see why I didn't get it. I don't know why. I'd like to know what that statute means, instead of a number. I don't know what it means. I hope you will enlighten me on that.

Senator BIBLE. Did we get your address? This is a specific problem. If we didn't get your address, the staff director will get the address, and we will check out the statute and let you know exactly what it provides.

Mr. KATZ. I get \$116 a month between me and my wife. I came here with \$22,000. I lost it in various business ventures. So I wanted to work, they laid me off, and they claim I'm not entitled to it.

Senator BIBLE. We will check out your problem for you. It is impossible for us to know these individual cases, what all the problems are.

Is there anyone else who cares to say something?

STATEMENT OF MRS. GRACE HENRY, LAS VEGAS

Mrs. HENRY. My name is Grace Henry. I'm from the Moapa Reservation.

I came over here to hear Senator Bible. He wrote me an invitation to come over, so I decided I'd come and hear him.

We haven't got much of a problem over at our place, but I would like to mention about the way we live over there. We haven't got no houses. We live in old shacks that you could throw a cat through, and then besides we haven't got enough clothing for our children. The money that we get from the welfare don't keep us up. The groceries where we live is very high, and a sack of flour costs \$4.05, and a slab of bacon costs \$7. You see how that's very high for us to live over there, and we just barely get by when the money is out, and I would like to have a little more if we can.

Senator BIBLE. Do you live in Moapa? Is that where you live now?

Mrs. HENRY. Yes, we live at the Moapa Reservation.

Senator BIBLE. I think this is obviously a problem that should be taken up with your new Superintendent of the Indian Reservations in the State of Nevada. There is a new man who has just come into the Carson City area. It should be taken up with him. We will ask Mr. Reidy to take your name down and see if we can be of help to you.

Mrs. HENRY. Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. I'm certainly happy that you came over.

STATEMENT OF JIM HILLARY, SEARCHLIGHT, NEV.

I think we have only one further witness left, and this is Jim Hillary over here in the wheelchair. He is 83 years of age.

I don't know that you actually have to make a statement, Mr. Hillary, because I have been told that the thing you are interested in is how to get an artificial leg. Is that what you are interested in?

Mr. HILLARY. Yes.

Senator BIBLE. I'm sure that somewhere in the Health, Education, and Welfare Department there are funds available for doing this very sort of thing. I think we passed legislation this past year that would help people in this direction.

So we will let you know, Mr. Hillary, just as soon as we check out your problem. This is what you wanted to know; isn't that right?

Mr. HILLARY. Yes. Maybe I'm too old.

Senator BIBLE. I don't think age should be the determining factor in a problem such as yours. Bill Reidy will check it out. Your problem is you want to know how you can get an artificial leg. We will find out and give you the answer.

Mr. HILLARY. Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. Do we have others? If not, I want to say that this has been a most interesting day. It has been a day in dealing with problems that are difficult. They are not easily solved. But we learn a great deal when we come down to the grassroots and meet with people day after day in connection with the questions and problems that they have. Now, you can't solve them all, but you can attempt to be of help, and this is our role, and this is the type of report that will be written and given back to the committee.

Every word that has been said here today has been taken down by the reporter, and the record will be left open, as I indicated. I understood that Mrs. Dorothy Werner wanted to file something, or, if she prefers, she can speak now.

Do you want to file something, Dorothy, or do you prefer to give it to us now?

Mrs. WERNER. Well, I will give it to you briefly.

Senator BIBLE. While you are on your way over to the microphone we will hear this lady. You may proceed.

STATEMENT OF MRS. ADA BARNES, LAS VEGAS

Mrs. BARNES. My name is Ada Barnes. I wanted to let you know that I was here. Thank you for what you have done for me.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much.

Now Mrs. Dorothy Werner had the problem that I commented on a little bit earlier about the rehabilitation of some housing units in Hawthorne, Nev. Really it's Babbitt, Nev.

We will be very happy to hear from you, Dorothy.

STATEMENT OF MRS. DOROTHY WERNER, BABBITT, NEV.

Mrs. WERNER. Senator Bible, Senator Randolph, and distinguished people present. At this time I would like to thank you for calling on me. I represent a small county, that is sure, and I know that we don't count too much as small counties, although we do at election time.

The population of Mineral County is 6,329, that is, in the 1960 census. From 45 to 85 we have 2,832. And I'm in Mineral County.

I am proud to say that as the cochairman of the Governor's committee on aging I did organize the first five counties in the State of Nevada. I do have committees of 20 in each county, and they are all active. This work was done by visiting each family, by visiting senior citizens. I went up into Rawhide, 80 miles distant, as you

know, Senator Bible, from Hawthorne, to visit elderly citizens, and I received many remarks from them on our questionnaires.

I would like to mention at this time also the Government housing in Hawthorne. There were 365 vacant units; however they have moved some out. But the ones that I'm interested in are for our senior citizens, the retired people, and the ones that are ready to retire in approximately a year or a year and a half from now. We had in 1959, when our survey was taken, 27, and we had in 1960, before the White House Conference, 69 that were eligible for the housing.

These homes that I'm working on and trying to obtain for the senior citizens have cement floors and cannot be moved very easily. They do have stoves. Some have gas ranges, some have oil. They have refrigerators. All they have to do is just be gone over a little bit and then our senior citizens or anyone can move into them.

Dr. Kernan spoke of his bill in the assembly. Dr. Kernan did send me a report. We haven't had a meeting since our convention and conference in Washington, the White House Conference, but he did send me a letter on what he was going to report.

I went to the chairman of the welfare committee, who is our assemblyman from my county, Mineral County, and he was not aware of anything of that sort. He didn't know what I was referring to. And they will and are willing to help us in any way that they can to obtain money for our senior citizens. They did so inform me.

There is one thing that I would like to mention, that in Mineral County our population has increased, and our work has decreased.

And then one more thing. I would like to inform Dr. Kernan that the retired peoples' income in Mineral County and the surrounding small counties averages from \$64 a month to \$250, and very few had \$250 a month. And all the five counties that I have represented and tried to work with need housing and need it badly. Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Mrs. Werner.

This is a worthy project, and it is one in which I hope we can make some headway. If you desire in any way to amplify the remarks that you have given to the reporter you certainly can feel free to do so, because we will keep the record open for that point.

Now I want to personally thank Senator Randolph for taking time out of a busy fall schedule. He is entitled to a little vacation, but he is interested in this problem, and he has been good enough to come to us today from West Virginia via California. He has had many, many years of distinguished public service, and it is service that has been an attempt to help in this particular field, and I want to thank him again for his participating as one of my fellow members on this Committee on the Aging. I know of the great work he has done.

If there are any final words that you have to say, Senator Randolph, I would certainly be glad to turn the microphone over to you.

Senator RANDOLPH. Senator Bible, at the conclusion of the morning's session I indicated that the formal statements had been stimulating and that we had been helped in preparing those recommendations which in part will flow from the hearings held by our Special Committee on Aging.

Now, at almost the conclusion of the afternoon session, I note that these personal experiences, some of them rather intimate in nature, in the overall add that necessary spark which we need in considering this vital subject matter.

I would not want to say that all is going to be well tomorrow in this State, or in this Nation, in reference to the solution to these specific experiences or these problems. I would wish to indicate that as long as we have men and women of good will, men and women of inquiring minds, men and women of understanding hearts, that we will make progress in this direction.

Dr. Kernan has stayed with us all day, after appearing here formally this morning. I know that he had duties in the afternoon, but he has been with us this afternoon. And I am grateful for not only his presence here but his close attention to what has been said.

The poet Longfellow said, "Age is opportunity no less than youth itself, though in another dress." We face these opportunities and these challenges. I am personally strengthened and encouraged, because once again at the local level, the most important level of government, we hear our citizenry speak and we sense the underlying compassion which is ever present.

Senator Bible, thanks for your personal courtesies. I am grateful for the hospitality of the people whom I have been privileged to meet. I shall return to my own State of West Virginia with very pleasant memories of having tarried here during these stimulating hearings.

Senator BIBLE. A very splendid statement; and believe me, we in Nevada, Senator Randolph, are honored by having had you in our midst.

Now, there may be others of you who have statements that you would like to leave with the reporter. I am advised by Mr. Reidy that the record will be kept open for a period of 10 days. I recognize that there are those who are sometimes reluctant to speak or might be a little nervous around a microphone. If any of you have anything that you want to tell the committee, feel free to do so by writing to the Committee on Aging, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.; and the record will be kept open, we will say, until November 10 for the purpose of allowing you to supply any additional information, good, bad, or indifferent. Whatever you want to say, please feel free to say it, and it will be evaluated.

Thank you very much, and with that the meeting will stand adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 4 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.)

OCTOBER 16.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I read with much interest your feelings toward the aged, and I note you are having a committee meeting in Las Vegas on October 25.

I wish I could be present to voice my small opinion also—I am a registered Democrat and feel sure you will do something for our oldsters.

I lived in Las Vegas 5 years until my husband died and have been forced to return temporarily to California and live with my son and his family. I will return to Las Vegas permanently in December and for the time being will live with Capt. William G. Reilly, captain of detectives, sheriff department, and his family until I can find a home for myself within my small means. I understand they have built housing for elderly and will build more but I am informed it won't be until 1963. Why so long? They can build much faster than that. Can't you demand and pass a bill to get housing for aged through before that. First I was told in May 1962. Now they write me 1963.

I'll be dead by then. We need decent housing. Will locate housing near transportation and markets. I understand the 20-unit housing now all rented is on Mesquite, that's nice locality near post office and downtown Las Vegas so we can go to movies, etc.

I need a single one-bedroom. They rent for \$40; that's within our means. I am a widow (white).

My family were personal friends of Senator Wagner, Senator Sam Lewis, Senator Norris, and so many others. My father for years was very politically minded and for years worked for the administration.

My only brother was killed in September 1918. He was with our Lafayette Esquadrielle, died in France, buried at Surcine Cemetery outside Paris. I was married to a Frenchman.

Please push this housing project for we elderly. I'm 62, alone, and nowhere to live. I can't afford these big rentals anymore.

I truly think the most urgent thing for the elderly citizen now is housing decently located. Please try, and good luck.

Sincerely,

Mrs. FLOREY MARSAUDON,
350 Avocado Street, Costa Mesa, Calif.

APPENDIX

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY BARBARA C. COUGHLAN, DIRECTOR,
NEVADA STATE WELFARE DEPARTMENT

The Nevada State Welfare Department would like to supplement its statement made at the meeting of the Special Senate Committee on Aging held in Las Vegas, October 25, 1961, as follows:

The introduction and passage of the Kerr-Mills bill was followed very closely by this agency. A meeting of the department's advisory committee on medical care was scheduled December 9, 1960, to examine and discuss the new medical assistance for the aged provisions. The reaction of the advisory committee was generally favorable, but it was believed further study was warranted before a final recommendation could be made. A subcommittee representing the medical, hospital, welfare, insurance professions, and the county commissioners was appointed to analyze the contents and report back to the full committee. The subcommittee had no immediate way of ascertaining the income level of those persons over 65 and since this information was the basis on which an appropriation request would have to be made, the minority was of the opinion that a request to the legislature had little prospect of passing unless a factual presentation was available. The subcommittee's recommendation was that the Governor's Committee on Aging be called upon to gather the data essential to the development of a medical assistance for the aged program.

The majority report was that the State welfare board should be requested to seek legislative action even though the number of individuals involved was not known and range of services to be provided had not been determined. The committee received the reports of the study committee and, by an extremely close vote, accepted the recommendation of the subcommittee majority. The recommendation was presented to the State welfare board at its meeting on March 13, 1961. The board, after careful review, decided that, while it supported wholeheartedly the medical assistance for the aged program, it could not justify legislation and an appropriation without having the necessary facts. Since the legislature was near adjournment (it adjourned April 1, 1961), there was insufficient time to assemble the required data on which to base a request. The request was deferred until the next session at which time it was hoped a carefully detailed plan for medical assistance for the aged could be prepared.

It should be added that in February 1961 the State welfare board approved a policy providing medical care only for those individuals over 65 who met all requirements for old-age assistance but whose income was sufficient only for their living expenses. This was a part of the department's implementation of the Kerr-Mills bill's provision for expansion of medical care under the old-age assistance program.